THE STORIES OF THE YEAR

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TOMORROW

24-page sports section Unrivalled Boxing Day coverage

Labour may cut number of Scots MPs

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

Tony Blair is to order a highpowered internal review of the impact of Scottish devolution on English politics and the right of Scottish Westminster MPs to decide political issues south of the

The party is expected to establish a commission in the new year to examine possible answers to the so-called "West Lothian" question, which formed the intellectual basis of Callaghan government.

The inquiry's remit will reflect the party leadership's determination to press ahead with plans for a Scottish Parliament, with tax-raising powers, early in the a Labour administration.

But it will seek to establish found to the question posed repeatedly in the late 1970s by Tam Daiyell,an anti-devolutionist, and then the MP for West Lothian – whether it was justified for Scottish MPs to vote gislation which no longer applied in Scotland, because it covered issues to be determined by

The commission is likely to be

Christmas snowstorms left

more than 4,000 families in the

Western Isles and Shetland

without electricity and facing

Boxing Day without heat or light

because of blizzard conditions.

bleak white Christmas after

snow fell in Durham, north

Yorkshire and parts of North-

ern Ireland and East Anglia. A London Weather Centre

spokesman predicted further

snowfalls after Northern Ireland

had its first white Christmas in

Many people enjoyed a less

PETER VICTOR

Donald Dewar, the Chief Whip, or Lord Irvine, whom Mr Blair will appoint as Lord Chancellor if he wins the election. It will almost certainly include other senior front-benchers, including George Robertson, the shadow Secretary of State for Scotland and Ann Taylor, the shadow

Leader of the Commons. The Labour leadership is open-minded on the outcome and Mr Blair has made it clear that he has no intention of backing down on the detailed commitment to a Scottish Parthe most coherent attack on the devolution proposals of the liament, already drawn up with the Liberal Democrats - whatever the conclusions.

But its existence raises the possibility for the first time that the present total of 72 Scottish MPs at Westminster - the large majority of whom are currently Labour - could be reduced to compensate for new whether an answer can be powers which will be devolved under Scottish home rule.

So far, even though there are more Labour MPs per head of population in Scotland than in England, Labour has not suggested that the numbers should on English and possibly Welsh be reduced. But the Liberal Democrats are already committed to reducing the number of Scottish MPs at Westminster.

More snow on the way

Several people were involved in accidents. In north-west Scot-

land, lighthouse keeper Donald

MacIver cheated death in a bliz-

zard, wading two miles through

snowdrifts to find shelter. Mr

MacIver, 44, ran into four feet

of snow on Christmas Eve when

he set out from Cape Wrath light to pick up supplies and mail in a Land Rover. He had

to strike out on foot for a hut

on a Ministry of Defence firing range. Mr Maciver said last night: "If it weren't for the hut

A Western Isles man and his

daughter refused to be rescued

I would be dead."

John Major is certain to press the arguments raised by the "West Lothian question" in the headed by a high-ranking Scot-tish Labour figure with UK-wide shadow responsibilities, like "West Lothian question" in the run up to the general election, is clear public of as he did in the 1992 campaign, a referendum.

meant that the "future status and number of Scotland's MPs at Westminster would inevitably be diminished".

The Tories are already preparing to question the po-tential role of Gordon Brown as Chancellor, sitting for a Scottish seat but fixing tax rates for England and Wales. Such tax rates might not be the final levels for Scotland - at least in theory - because of the Scottish Parliament's right to add or sub-tract up to 3p in the pound to or from UK tax rates.

The terms of reference of the Labour inquiry are likely to be wide-ranging and could include an examination of whether there is any case for allowing some business for England and Wales to be decided only by English and Welsh MPs. Although Labour is committed to setting up a Welsh assembly, this would have more limited powers than the Scottish Parliamen and no right to levy taxes.

The inquiry is less likely to reopen the question of regional government in England as a possible answer to the "West Lothian question". While Mr Blair is committed to a regional elected authority for London. the party has made it clear that it will only agree to regional asis clear public demand tested in

from their van after crashing

during a blizzard unless police also took their wild goat.

The cold snap looks set to

spread south, with Arctic air

covering the whole of the UK.

England and Wales will have a

mainly dry day with sunny spells although it will be cold. Scotland

and Northern Ireland can ex-

pected heavy snow at times, es-

Nine of the ten race meetings

scheduled for today have either

been abandoned already or

face a similar fate this morning.

Blizzards strike;

pecially in the Highlands.

I can't go on, the Pope tells followers

A weak and feverish Pope John Paul II was forced to interrupt his traditional Christmas greetings to the world yesterday, alarming the 30,000-strong crowd in St Peter's Square as he was seen sighing and bowing his head in the window of his pri-

vate Vatican apartments.
"I'm sorry, but I can't go on. Merry Christmas and God biess," the 75-year-old Pontiff said hurriedly as he retired in-side to be sick. Twenty minutes later he reappeared, to applause from the crowd, but was unable to continue with the greeting he normally reads out in more than 50 languages.

A Vatican spokesman insisted that His Holiness was suffering from no more than a bout of flu, but the episode highlighted the frailty of a man who has undergone major surgery twice in the last three years and lost much of the driving energy that has characterised his 17 years as Pope.
It was the first time since his

election in 1978 that John Paul had cut short his heavy Christmas programme of services and addresses. He had appeared to be in fine form until Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, when he gradually turned pale in the heat of St Peter's, filled with around 12,000 worshippers. When he returned to the sacristy, his vestments were bathed

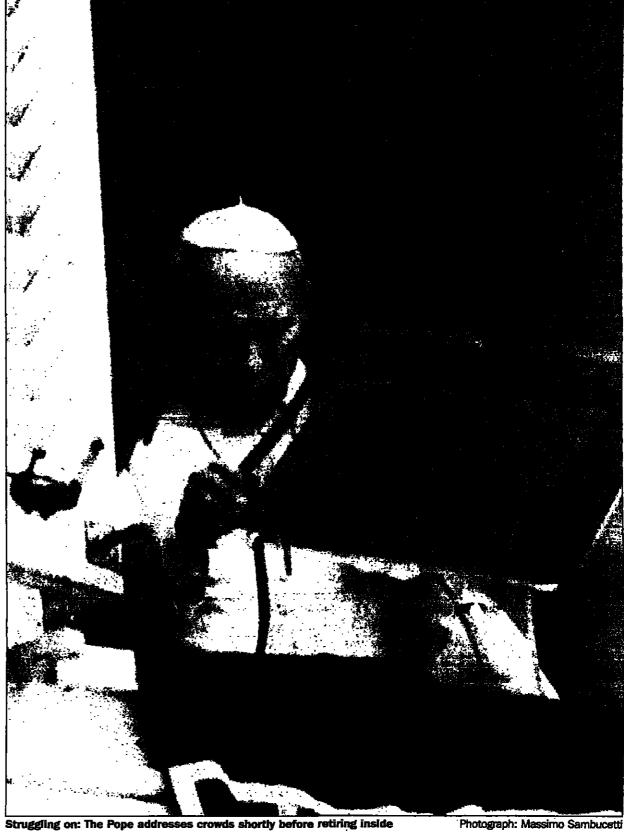
By yesterday morning, he was running a temperature and had to bow out of Christmas Mass, which was taken instead by the vicar-general of Vatican City, Cardinal Virgilio Noe. Traditionally, the Pope gives his Urbi et Orbi address, to the city of Rome and the world, from the balcony of St Peter's. Under the circumstances, however, he decided to deliver it from his private apartments.

He had just given his Christmas greeting in Italian and French when he was forced to stop. "Even the Pope has his weaknesses, but I'm trying to re-

This time last year, the Vatican was abuzz with speculation about the health of the Pope and possible candidates for the succession. Following a painful recovery from hip replacement surgery, he looked pale and weak in public and walked only

with the help of a cane.
In 1995 he has remained subdued, but much stronger, allowing Vatican insiders to predict with some confidence that he will fulfil his dream of seeing the Catholic church through the millennium.

Reaction in Rome yesterday protection?"
was noticeably free of panic. The Pope Weather forecast, page 2 1 "There's been a bug going pected to spend the rest of the code http://www.vatican.va.



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40 degrees," said Paolo Vanniin the church. "Why should the Vatican walls offer any special

The Pope himself was ex-

round and several of my friends vear at his country residence bave had temperatures of 38 or Castel Gandolfo, where he has recuperated from illnesses in ni, a physicist with connections the past. As for his Christmas message and greeting, the Vatican announced they would be available for the first time on the Internet - address

TREATMENT OF **SHORTSIGHT**

our price.

Briton's suicide mars Bosnia celebrat

Sarajevo

Christmas, which has brought the first hopes for peace to Bosnia, began on a sombre note for British troops in Sarajevo with the news that a comrade had apparently committed suicide on Christmas Eve. But for most it was a joyous event. Thousands packed the Catholic cathedral for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, where Sarajevo's Cardinal, Vinko Puliic, his voice breaking, told worshippers: The war is over. Let there be peace.

For the first Christmas in four years, the city resounded to mu-sic and laughter rather than the sounds of war. "It's the first time

since the war began that there is no shooting at Christmas," Sarajevo. Edi Hrnjic, a young Muslim, said as he loitered on the Cathedral steps with a friend. "I'm hoping it's the first Christmas in peace-time," Elvina Dzafic. a Muslim woman, said. "It's much better than last year, because it's calm, there is no shooting, and we have every-thing we need on the table."

Proof of the changes came as we walked across Vrbanja bridge, probably the single most dangerous place in the city, to visit French troops celebrating

It was here that Suada Dilberovic, a student attending a peace demonstration on 5 April 1992, was killed by a sniper - the

THOSE WHO BRING PEACE. UND RECONCILATION UN-

The latest to die was Signalman Mark Maxwell, 22, of 7 Sig-nal Regiment, apparently by his own band. He was found in his room at a Nato base in the city with a gurshot wound to the head. "It appears there was no one else involved," Colonel Mark Rayner, spokesman for Nato's Implementation Force (I-For), told reporters. Maxwell's commanding offi-cer, Major Julian Turner, said his death had come as a great shock to his comrades. "He was

always a happy lad, he made other people smile. That's why

his death was so unexpected."

quite a pal," Signalman Glen

"I don't know why - he was

MacDonald said as he queued for lunch at the battered Nato base in Zetra Olympic stadium after a Christmas service. The cooks, draped in streamers and red caps, did their best to keep it festive, doling out turkey and demanding kisses from the few women in the area. The officers, as tradition dictates, awoke the men yesterday

morning with cups of tea laced with rum, and helped to serve lunch, accompanied by Spanish champagne. Brigadier Tony Raper, who has troops dotted around Sarajevo - including 19 unfortunates stuck on top of Mount Bielasnica, the Olympic ski mountain where the tem-

go and chat to the men, dish them out some booze, make sure they're happy," he said. The Americans were also celebrating, with iced tea and lemonade: the US Army, unlike

its Nato allies, is dry on operations. "I hope the peace stays," said Warrant Officer Terry Speak, who had delivered Christmas lunches to the Bjelasnica troops, though they had to walk down the mountain to collect it. "It was quite strange driving through Sarajevo last night seeing so many people walking around, holding hands, bars and cafés full."

The 10pm curfew was lifted for the holidays, and the streets perature was minus 36C - was doing the rounds yesterday. "I Eve with Sarajevans celebrating.

Thousands, many of them Mus-lims or Serbs - the latter also celebrate Orthodox Christmas Midnight Mass at the Catholic cathedral, a lively social event uniting the city and its longing for a return to real life. "I have good news for you today. A child is born to us: peace," the Cardinal said in a sermon that provoked lengthy applause from the congregation. "Hope comes with this Christmas."

Three women gathered outside for a cigarette after the service agreed. "Hope is the most important thing," said Jovanka Vilic, a Serb married to a Croat. "I would rather go without water during the day or bread if

many British stamps he had sold this Christmas, except it was

"thousands". He emphasised.

though, that he did not sell

chean Royal Mail stamps just at

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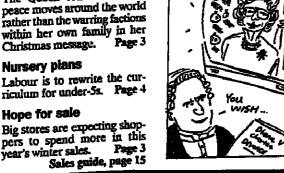
IN BRIEF Message of peace The Queen concentrated on

peace moves around the world rather than the warring factions within her own family in her Christmas message.

Labour is to rewrite the cur-

riculum for under-5s. Page 4 Hope for sale Big stores are expecting shoppers to spend more in this

contents



Stamps stuck with off-shore discount CHRIS BLACKHURST

Royal Mail stamps are being sold at a cheap rate by a company based in the Isle of Man. while retailers and sub-post offices on the mainland are forced to sell them at full price. The company is exploiting a littleknown practice where the Post Office sells stamps to dealers at

a discount. Dealers buy the stamps ostensibly for other dealers and

class British Christmas stamps

at 10 per cent off their face condition with gum and norprice. A mailshot from the company, sent to would-be customers on the mainland, boasts: "We now have the British 19p Christmas stamps in stock at our regular 10 per cent discount below face. The 19p is the most collectors and then sell them popular value for cards."

to the firm in the Isle of Man. Warwick Estates in Douglas, Isle of Man. has completed the on 300; £9.50 on 500; and £19 peak Christmas period, selling on 1,000. Stamps for packages 25p first-class and 19p secondare available. Warwick guarantees: "All our stamps are in good mally supplied in full sheets. We obtain them from overstocked stamp dealers around the world, fire salvage, liquidations etc. They are perfectly valid and le-

gal for use." Graham Warwick of Warwick Estates refused to say how

BUSINESS 16 CROSSWORDS 2, 24 NEWS 2-6 REVIEW OF THE YEAR 7-14 SALES GUIDE 15 SPORT 17-22, 24 TELEVISION & RADIO 23

The poor of Paris flock to 'supermarket' giveaway

In Britain we tend not think of the French as particularly charitable, but in case you need convincing that the British do not have a monopoly on good works, consider this: French television's Telethon - an almost eract counterpart of the BBC's Children in Need - raised a record 377 million francs (£49.6m) this year, more than four times the BBC's £11.9m. This was achieved when all France was at a standstill because of the strikes, in a country where the national, and many other, lotteries are institutions of long standing.

Charity ventures organised in

Sacked

prisons

chief

lambasts

Howard

The sacked prisons chief Derek Lewis yesterday issued a

strongly worded warning to the

Government about the dangers of making prison life too harsh.

prepared to publish a book in the New Year which threatens

to "lift the lid" on the Govern-

ment's beleaguered prison

policy, sparking fresh embar-rassment for the Home Secre-

In an outspoken attack on jail

policy - just days after prison inspectors walked out of Holloway women's jail over harsh conditions there - Mr Lewis ex-

pressed his concern that politi-cians were overly concerned

with excessively tough prison

Prisons should be austere and there should not be any hint of luxury, Mr Lewis said.

"But what worries me at pre-

sent is that the political debate

- public attention being fo-

cused on prisons, the emphasis

being given to austerity and se-

curity - will upset the balance

public well if they simply turn out embittered, alienated prisoners who were going to go straight back to a life of crime.

"Prisons are not serving the

There is a very important re-

habilitative task to be done." He argued that too many of-

fenders "at the margins" were

Mr Lewis - who was sacked

as director-general in October - also accused Mr Howard of

"too much political involve-

ment" in the Prison Service's

day-to-day running. He said

there was a "very substantial dif-

ference of view between them

about what their relationship

already being sent to prison.

which is so important.

tary, Michael Howard.

Mr Lewis spoke out as he

Mary Dejevsky discovers the festive season brings out the generosity in the French

Paris this Christmas - and for linked with the Communist many Christmases past - range from bazaars set up by parishes, clubs and other organisations, including the French Navy to help fund its charitable work, to premises within limits, what they wanted. temporarily converted into giant hostels to house the Paris 15 coupons, each for a different counterparts of Crisis, the UK charity for the homeless.

Party - decided that instead of distributing food parcels to those on its register, it would set Each "chequebook" contained group of goods: groceries, soft drinks, sweets, dairy products, To celebrate its 50th fruit, meat (including one anniversary, Secours Populaire turkey per family): small pre-- originally, but no longer, sents, even Christmas trees.

The Bercy palace of sport in a benighted redevelopment area of east central Paris is not the first place that springs to mind as a repository of the festive spirit. But in the days before Christmas it rang with excited voices as a seemingly endless stream of people young mothers with small children, adolescents, and wizened elderly women - made their way around the concrete "palace" and across a muddy building site

Everyone carried large empty bags or pulled little shopping carts and, when courteously stopped at "checkpoints" along the way, waved their books of coupons - or offered complicated hardluck stories in which the words "local council", "postal strikes" and "it must be a mistake" figured large.

They were all benefiting - or hoping to benefit - from Supermarché libre - mounted by Secours Populaire to supply poor families in the Paris region with Christmas provisions.

to join a teeming queue waiting in front of a half-renovated warehouse.

Everyone carried large empty

Many arrived by coach; gathering obediently in labelled groups before joining the mindreds-strong queue. Others came on the now working - and temporarily free :- metro and suburban railway.

The project was greeted with enthusiasm. "It was an hour's journey in the coach, but it's brilliant," said Martine who had two small children in tow. "You can choose, without wonying what it costs." She had two large bags, completely full, including the turkey and a pack of giant leeks sticking out of the top. Her only disappointment was the dearth of toys. There were

books, but she thought they looked too like textbooks. Some people tried with vary-

ing degrees of guile (and success) to swap their grocery "cheque" for sweets - something the system was devised to prevent. Others were frustrated with the queuing, some com-plained about people with photocopied" cheques. Some of the helpers worried at having to make so many snap decisions about who to let in and who not. But in the course of three days more than 16,000 people cashed their "cheques" worth more than 400 francs per

Jackson holds top spot of the year

Mike Flowers narrowly failed to become the least likely recipient of the pop charts' Christmas No 1 slot when Michael Jackson held the top spot with his

"Earth Song". The 35-year-old former busker and his group looked likely to top the festive charts with the easy-listening rendition of Oasis' ballad "Wonderwall". But Jackson managed to hang on for the third week.

The Mike Flowers Pops record sold more than 10,000 copies in its first two days of release at HMV stores alone. and entered the charts at number two. Jackson, the odds-on favourite at 4-7, made bookmakers William Hill a small profit. They stood to lose around £125,000 if Mike Flowers Pops reached No 1.

Triple murder charge

A man was remanded in custody until he appears before Colwyn Bay magistrates tomorrow charged with three murders. Peter Moore, 49, of Kinmel Bay. Clwyd, is accused of murdering Tony Davies, 40, of Colwyn Bay, who was found stabbed on a beach at Abergele, on Monday last week, Keith Randles, 49, of Chester, who was found stabbed at a construction site in Anglesey last month and an unidentified man whose body was found in woods near Ruthin on Saturday.

Dogs savage boy, 11 A boy savaged by two rottwellers was "critical but stable" in Booth Hall Hospital in Manchester. David Kearney, 11, was mauled after he climbed a fence to recover a football from a back yard at Darwen, Lancashire, where three rottweilers were kept. Two of the dogs were later destroyed at the owner's

Home repossessions Almost 50,000 families have had their homes repossessed in the last 12 months, according to a new report by the housing charity Shelter.

Cantona captured

Manchester United's Eric Cantona, banned from soccer for eight months in 1995 for kicking a spectator, is to join the immortals in Madame Tussaud's waxwork museum in London. The model will be unveiled around May.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Cold turkey as blizzards strike



Snow place like home: A house near Banchory, on Royal Deeside, transformed into an igloo by the ravages of the Christmas Day weather

PETER VICTOR

More than 4,000 families in the Western Isles and Shetland suf-fered Christmas Day without some of the worst weather in electricity and face Boxing Day without heat or light because of

blizzard conditions. The weather was so had that Shetland Islands Council ordered snow plough drivers to stay at home for their own

Mr Lewis made his criticism just 24 hours after the former Hundreds of engineers bat-Parkhurst Prison governor, tled against atrocious conditions John Marriott branded Mr to restore power in the High-lands and Islands and north-east Howard a "small-minded man" who "mistakes public rhetoric of Scotland. But many families ate a cold Christmas meal amid

White Christmas: Thousands suffering seasonal snow chaos

living memory. Mike Keohane, a spokesman for the power-generating com-pany Hydro Electric, said last night: "Despite the valiant efforts today of our repair teams in Shetland and the Western Isles we are talking about po-tentially another 24 hours without any electricity.

"It's just horrendous. Our response is clearly that this has been an act of God - a storm which produced winds in excess

of 100mph has done very

significant damage. 'Clearly what has happened is very regrettable and it is terrible on Christmas Day but power cuts certainly occur two or three times a year.

Hydro Electric covers one quarter of the land mass of Great Britain but only 2 per cent of the population. Many of its customers are supplied with electricity along single cables go-ing up remote glens with small dwellings.

"It just takes one of these lines to go out," Mr Keohane said. "I think those who live in snowed in. remote locations themselves

know that you have to accept the risk at this time of the year. It's not like living in a city where you can switch electricity from four directions." The blizzard left Shetland's 22,000 residents with a whiteout Christmas, All roads outside the county town of Lerwick were blocked, the town and its

population of 8,000 were cut off

by drifts more than 30ft high. Thousands more homes were More than 20 airline passengers were stranded in a ho-

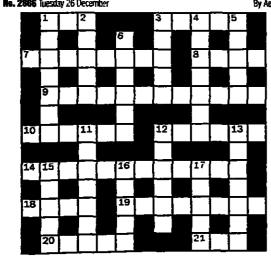
tel near Sumburgh Airport. Smith said: "The snow ploughs can't cope. Heavy snow in Shetland is highly unusual and the only snow blowers are at the main airport." Clearing the 500 miles of blocked roads could take several days, he added.

vere weather made driving conditions hazardous in much of Scotland and northern England and more snow was threat-

Photograph: Derek Ironside

is that if you don't need to travel - then don't." Goat owner Anne Louise Macdonald, who crashed her van in the Western Isles bliz-The council convenor Lewis zard, refused to be rescued unless police also took care of the wild goat. PC John Hier, who rescued Miss Macdonald and her father, Jimmy, said: "We told them the goat would be all right in their van until later. But the gentleman and the lady weren't having any of it."

for strong leadership". concise crossword



ACROSS

For one (3) Poetry (5) Emits heat (8) 8 Not working (4)
9 Safety devices for jet pilots (7.5) 10 Pattern of small pieces

(6) 12 Whole (6) 14 Handicap (12) 18 Card game (4) 19 Cut (8) 20 Give up (5) 21 24 hours (3)

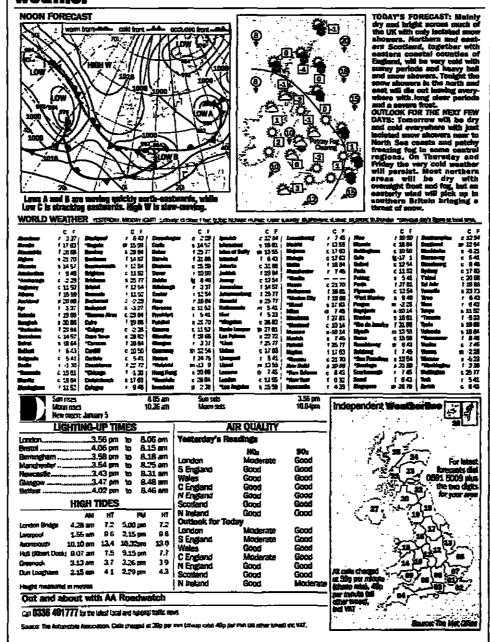
Useless medicine (7) Lift up (5) Face shield (5)

Minaret (anag) (7) Noisy display (5) Unmoving (6) 11 Mollusc (7) 12 Girl nice in the end? (6) 13 A coming back in (2-5) lo With force of law (5) 17 Bitter (5)

Solution to Saturday's Concise Crossword: Across: 1 Lick. 4 Cures (Liqueurs), 9 Cream, 10 Leonine, 11 Untaught, 12 Akin, 13 Fruit machines, 17 Maul, 18 Ptomaine, 21 Glanced, 22 Obese, 23 Ebony, 24 Kilt.

Down: 2 Inept, 3 Kumquat, 4 Coldheartedly, 5 Riot, 6 Stick-on, 7 Scruff, 8 Vein, 14 Ululate, 15 Hammock, 16 Skewer, 17 Magi, 19 Ideal, 20 Echo.

weather



Police fear lorry driver abducted French student

Detectives seeking a missing French student believe she was probably abducted by a lorry driver who gave her a lift.

the driver, who picked up Ce-line Figard, 19, at a service area near Newbury, Berkshire, has not come forward. Detective Superintendent Des Thomas said yesterday: "If he is an innocent man why has he not come forward? Ei-

ther he has not heard about the appeal or you can draw your sinister implications. Someone out there knows who he is. The quicker they tell us the quicker we can get to her."
Thousands of posters showing a picture of Celine, asking "Have you seen this girl?" and stating "The police fear for her safety" are to be distributed

within the next few days. Celine was given a lift from the Chieveley service area at the strap beard but no moustache.



junction of the M4 and A34 near Newbury last Tuesday.

He was wearing a grey Top. the poster shows a videofit of the The poster describes the white Mercedes cab she got into as pulling a grey trailer with a Thermo King refrigeration unit. The driver was white, 30 to



Poster campaign: Left, the videofit of the driver compiled by a witness who saw him with Celine, right

35, with short fair hair and a chin

driver, compiled by a witness who saw Celine with him.

Celine, of Sey-Sur-Saone. France, had come to Britain to spend Christmas with a cousin who works at a hotel in Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

Tories plan for more secure PM

DONALD MACINTYRE

Senior Tory backbenchers will next month begin a wideranging review of the rules for party leadership contests which could make it harder for MPs to dislodge prime ministers

from office. Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 Committee, will in the New Year propose that leading officers begin in earnest to examine options for change to the rules under which an incumbent leader can be replaced.

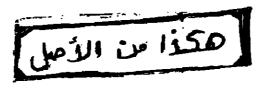
Onslow about the options covered during the last review, which followed Lady Thatcher's departure in 1990. That resulted in the present requirement that a contest can only be held if 10 per cent of the parliamentary party signify in writing that they want such a contest.

One member of the 1922 executive said that "nothing will be barred" in an examination of the present leadership rules, and that the officers will not be

Sir Marcus has already con-rushed into making early sulted his predecessor Cranley recommendations.

These could include removing the right to challenge a sitting prime minister for the leadership at all, if he is of sound mind, or raising the proportion of MPs required to demand a

Some senior Tories argue, however, that the increasing threat of leadership challenges adds to turnoil within the party and unnecessarily destabilises the party at the expense of its electoral interests.



The Queen's speech: Warring family factions take a back seat to the courage of peace workers all over the world

A royal message of peace and goodwill

JOHN MCKIE

The Queen vesterday concentrated on the bright side of life in her annual message to the Commonwealth; she did not mention the warring factions within her own household, but dwelt instead on the peace initiatives around the world and narrated footage of the royal family on its best behaviour and at its most effective.

In the broadcast from Sandringham, Norfolk, her sombre delivery contrasted with scenes of the royal family in happier mood at this summer's VE and VI Day 50th anniversary celebrations, and her own successful tour of South Africa in

The starring roles were taken by the older members of the family, with glimpses of Prince Charles and his estranged wife. Princess Diana was far from the royal festivities in Norfolk, playing an uncharacteristically low-profile role.

The Queen, in her speech, spoke of the successful brokering of peace in Northern Ireland and Bosnia, and paid tribute to various Commonwealth volunteer organisations. In particular, she mentioned an Irish nurse whom she met in South Africa, Sister Ethel Normoyle, who teaches underprivileged children in a township just outside Port Elizabeth.

"The traditional Christmas message speaks of peace and goodwill among men," the Queen said. "It is the volunteers and the Sister Ethels of this world who spread that message and it is for the rest of us to welcome it."

She gave special emphasis to the VE and VJ Day festivities in May and August. "It was difficult to know that day who felt the greater pride," she said, "those of us watching or those of us on parade. It was an unforgettable day for all of us." There was praise also for the volunteer workers in countries

the Queen recently invited to Buckingham Palace. Like the people who fought and won the last war, they

"from Bosnia to Rwanda, from

Chechnya to Cambodia", whom

make no claim to be anything out of the ordinary, but their commitment is very far from ordinary," she said.

The royal family, without the Princess of Wales or the Duchess of York - gathered for the traditional church service at Sandringham, Norfolk, yesterday. It was the first time the Princess of Wales had missed

attended the 45-minute service included the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh, Princes Charles, Edward, William and Harry, Princess Margaret, and the Princess Royal, accompa-nied by her husband Captain Tim Laurence and her children Peter and Zara Phillips. The family spent the rest of the day

at Sandringham.

Buckingham Palace had halved the usual quota of photographers and journalists given access to cover the Sandring service to only 20. This decision was thought to be an attempt to recover some of the mystique the royal family has lost over the past two decades.

A palace spokesman said that the Queen's decision not to mention her family was not unusual. "She has been doing the speech for 40 years," he said. "It's a Commonwealth message, and if she chooses to adopt a bigger theme, then that's a matter for her."

In his Christmas address yesterday, the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, did mention the schisms within the royal family. He said that the Prince and Princess of Wales and their children "have been at the forefront of our prayers as we sense afresh some of the pain they carry".

Princess Diana had left

iographists none the wiser as to her whereabouts. Some felt she might have been at her brother's home of Althorp, in Northamptonshire, while other reporters thought she was heading for a skiing trip in Colorado. The Duchess of York, although not present at the church, later lunched with her daughters Beatrice and Eugenie at the Wood Parin House on the



Standing together: The royal family gathers outside the church at Sandringham after the traditional Christmas service Photograph: John Stillwell / PA

Good news is the focus in even the worst years

Christmas may have changed since her accession, and the sitnation in her household has shifted dramatically in the last week alone, but the Queen chose not to break with tradition in her message to the Commonwealth yesterday.

Choosing to avoid any reference to the expected divorce of her eldest son and his wife, the Queen focused on traditional themes - international strife and hardship and, of course, the

good news.
Good news has been a comforting factor in her Christmas address to the nation in the last few years of her troubled reign. In 1992, the year she had called her "annus horribilis" in a speech just before Christmas, the collapse of the marriages of her two eldest sons was heaviile was badly damaged by fire.

But in that year's Christmas message she did not refer specifically to such problems. Instead, she paid tribute to Lord Cheshire VC, the founder of Cheshire Homes for the disahled. She acknowledged the difficult days the family had faced but stressed the continuity of her reign. "To me, this continuity is a great source of comfort in a world of change, tension and violence," she said.

I set year the also tried to ex-

Last year she also tried to extract good news from a bad year, reciting a 1919 poem from Siegitied Sassoon, "Everybody Sang". She quoted: "Everybody suddenly burst out singing. And I was filled with such delight."

The theme of good news keeps recurring. Ten years ago it cropped up "in spite of the frightening headlines". "It used to be said," she recalled, "that 'no news is good news', but today you might well think that...

message of optimism: "If enough grains of sand are dropped into one side of a pair of scales they will, in the end, tip against a hump of lead."

In previous decades, the Queen was more inclined to talk about her family than she is now. She praised "the great family fes-tival" of Christmas in her 1965 address, but her first speech in 1952 was much more personal. "Each Christmas, at this time, my beloved father broadcast a message to his people in all parts of the world. Today I am doing this to you who are my people. As he used to do."

The following year the Queen was revealed as a proud parent, a quality she has seldom shown recently. "We all want our children at Christmas time. I hope that perhaps mine are listening to me now, and I am sure that when the time comes they, too, will be great travellers."



Sister Ethel Normoyle won praise in the Queen's message

Don't compare me to Teresa'

The missionary nun singled out by the Queen in her Christmas speech told the world yesterday: "Don't compare me to Moth-

The modest Sister Ethel Normoyle, who has dedicated her-self for the last seven years to helping the poor in a shanty town in South Africa, said she was "delighted" to be mentioned in the monarch's

Christmas message.
But she said: "I don't think I would want any symbolism to Mother Teresa. We have just both shared in the theme of the poverty of people. We are just trying to do what everybody here is doing - to reach out to people who are broken and re-pressed. I'm just trying to do my bit to bring the compassion of Christ to people.

The more you are involved in their lives, you become very aware of the poverty and

The modest 50-year-old nun, from Liscasey, County Clare, in the west of the Irish Republic, met the Queen when she

visited South Africa in March. The Queen used the historic occasion to see the work of the Little Company of Mary, in Mis-sionvale, near Port Elizabeth, where Sister Ethel and her colleagues give hope and support to thousands of people living in horrendous poverty.
Sister Ethel described her

feelings on the sunny day the Queen and her entourage called at Missionvale's school and clinic, built from humble beginnings seven years ago, and then looking its very best. She was really wonderful, in-

terested and caring." Sister Ethel also praised the Princess of Wales's campaigning for disadvantaged groups in Britain. "I have great admiration for her - she's really caring and has great compassion.

Sales set to bring a happy **New Year** to stores

GLENDA COOPER

Big stores are expecting restored consumer confidence success for both customer and retailer following last year's

"disappointing" spending.

Mortgage and interest-rate cuts have played their part, coupled with the larger stores slashing prices by half on many

"Overall we're expecting people to take advantage of the sales," said a spokeswoman for the British Retail Consortium. We're expecting them to be better than last year." She added that January 1995 was a "disappointment", with retail sales dropping to £10.75bn from £20.7bn last December.

This year is likely to be better, with a more robust consumer confidence: "We've also got the prospect of more money in our pockets in April and possibly another interest-rate cut in the New Year. This should make people a little more comfortable about spend-

ing," the spokeswoman said. Richard Perks, retail analyst with the market research organisation Verdict, said: "The sales should be good, partly because of poor overall retail sales this year." He expects retailers to be cautious, and to knock down "a lot" of prices on

Paul Keenan, PR manager of the MetroCentre in Gateshead, Europe's largest shopping centre agreed: "There will be a lot of bargains and we think purchasing will be very good." Last year the centre saw 142,000 shoppers through its doors on the first day of the sales.

Post-Christmas sales in the larger stores can create a formidable turnover. Selfridges, a major retailer on London's Oxford Street, says that the winter sale accounts for 15 per cent of its annual turnover. The first week of the sale is also Self-ridges' busiest week of the year with 85,000 people expected through the door tomorrow.

Marks & Spencer would not in advance. But a spokeswoman said: "The sale is a way of clearing merchandise, clearing winter stock out so that we can start

introducing the Spring ranges."
Liberty's of Regent Street store expects to see at least 50,000 bargain-hunters on the first day of the sale, and is offering half price on designer names such as Vivienne Westwood and Liza Bruce.

The frozen food giant Iceland will join the fray this week by firing an early shot across the bows of competitors in the New Year supermarket price war. The high-street chain is turning the clock back a decade by cutting prices to 1986 levels on hundreds of items for two weeks from 30 December. "Everyone wants bargains in the New Year and other retailers may have to follow our move," said Iceland

chairman Malcolm Walker. Most of the big stores, including Selfridges and Liberty, begin their sales at 9am to-morrow. But for those who believe there is only one sale, Harrods will not be starting until 3 January.

Sales Guide, page 15

Helping porpoises slip through the net

in the second in a weekly series, Nicholas Schoon reports on dangers faced by the dolphin's smaller cousin

The harbour porpoise is the smallest and by far the most common of the whales and dolphins living in the waters around Britain. But its population is thought to be in decline and it is now very rarely seen in the English Channel or the southern sector of the North Sea. It is one of Britain's most threatened or fastest declining

species and habitats, for which rescue plans have been proposed by a steering group of government scientists and wildlife conservation groups. The best-documented threat it faces is from bottom-set drift nets, which are like curtains, sev-

eral miles across, running along the sea-bed. The porpoises become entangled in these nets and drown; surveys have suggested about 10,000 die this way each year, mostly in the North Sea, off the coast of Denmark, and the Celtic Shelf waters off south-west England and southern Ireland.

porpoise, phocoena phocoena, ramming and battering them.
s also vulnerable to long- In 1994, Britain's Sea Mamis also vulnerable to longlasting, toxic pollutants which mal Research Unit in Cam-



flow down rivers into the sea, get into the small fish it preys upon porpoise's body fat. It may also be frightened away from busy areas by the noise and movements of ships and boats.

The males grow up to 1.7m long. The females are sexually

mature at only 14-months old and they give birth to single calves. They are shy and secretive, compared to dolphins, which are often bold, curious and playful with people and ships. Consequently, little is known about the porpoise's so-cial and family life. It surfaces only briefly to breathe. Earlier this year it emerged that dol-phins sometimes kill their small-But scientists believe the er relatives in British waters,



Endangered: Action is needed to safeguard the grey porpoise in British coastal waters

bridge organised a large survey of cetaceans in the North Sea, the English Channel and Celtic Shelf, using ships and aircraft and funded by the European Commission. This led to the The porpoise - between 267,000 formerly found.

and 465,000 dwell in these seas. The Steering Group proposes a target of maintaining this population and ensuring in the long term that no man-made factors stop the porpoise repopulation estimate for the turning to waters where it was

tions for achieving this are further river and coastal pollution curts, and changes in fishing practices and net design to reduce the drownings.

The cost is estimated at £250,000 a year.

Hunger drives rare birds ashore providing treats for twitchers

Bird watchers have had a Christmas bonus this year with a flurry of sightings of the rare Arctic redpoll - a small grey-and-white finch. There has also been an arrival

of waxwings, pinkish-brown starling-like birds with promi-nent head crests and red, yellow and white wing markings, from the northern forests of Scandinavia and Russia.

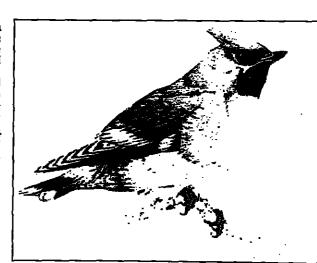
One of the best areas for spotting is north Norfolk, where

there have been up to five Arctic redpolls in fields between Cromer and East Runton, while a flock of 14 waxwings has been seen near Sheringham. Arctic redpolls have also been identified at the William

Thorpe Nature Reserve near Basiow, Derbyshire; at Brentwood, Essex; in a wood near Rutland Water, Leicestershire; near Newborough, Stafford-shire; and at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' reserve at Vane Farm near Kinross, Tayside.

More than 120 birds have been reported around Britain since the record invasion began last month, with some of the largest numbers appearing in Orkney and Shetland.

The severe weather in the



Waxwing: Suffering food shortages in northern forests

Northern Isles should not bother them as they are among the world's hardiest birds, known to survive temperatures as low as -60C in Alaska. Their flight to Britain is not considered weather-related but is caused by a food shortage in their normal wintering territories - which is also the reason for the sudden

appearance of the waxwings. Waxwings, which feed on berries, have been reported at

Fazakerley, Merseyside; Holk-ham, Norfolk; and near Barns-ley and Doncaster in South Yorkshire. More are likely to be reported further afield over the next few days.

Other sightings over Christ-mas have included smew, a duck from Scandinavia or Russia, which has been reported in Berkshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Comwall, Essex, Leicestershire

Labour to rewrite nurseries curriculum

Early learning: Policy to embrace partnership of public and private sector for under-fives

FRAN ABRAMS Education Correspondent

Labour will offer state money to private nurseries and rewrite the curriculum for the underfives in plans to be announced

next month. The party is already looking at projects which might form the model for its aims to expand nursery education and day care. One involves a private company, set up by a Labour council. which has taken over all day nurseries in a Tory borough.

In a paper to be launched in the New Year, the party will condemn the Government's nursery plans, despite recent reports that the party might not withdraw the £1.100 vouchers if it came to power after their introduction. It is likely to promise nursery education for all three- and four-year-olds, as well as day care for babies and

Though Labour has not costed its plans, experts have estimated that between £1.02bn and £1.04bn per year might be needed to provide part-time private companies, such as nursery education for three supermarkets, in return for

integrated under-fives service. including day care, would cost around £2.7hn per year.

Margaret Hodge, head of the party's "early years" in-quiry and MP for Barking, said Labour had to recognise that things had changed since Margaret Thatcher first promised nursery education for all in 1972. Part-time care would no longer suffice because far more

mothers now worked, she said.
"We will have to build on the legacy we inherit, and so we would have to look for partnerships with the private and voluntary sector to create these places for children. We have got to be imaginative if we are to provide access to all," she said.

The party's new policy foresees an integrated under-fives service, often run by partner-ships of private, public and voluntary organisations. Local authorities would still be responsible for planning and inspection.

Nurseries might be built by private companies, such as

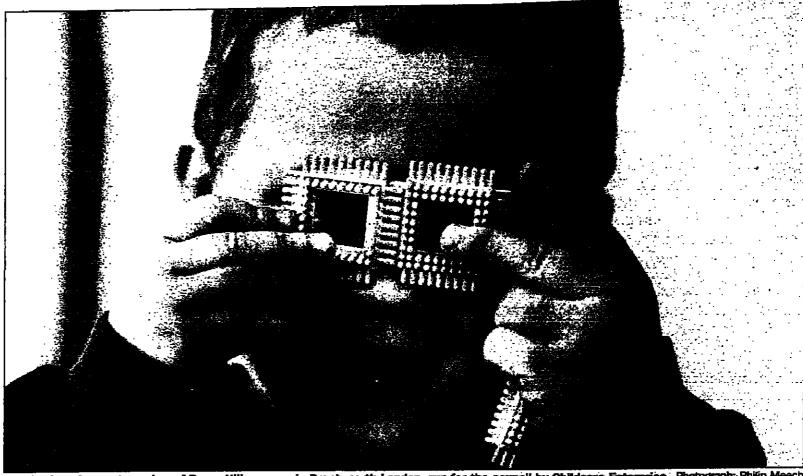
year-olds and full-time school- planning permission for develing for four year-olds. A fully opments, and could be run by a local authority or by a voluntary organisation. Mrs Hodge said there should be flexibility so that authorities in different areas of the country could meet

> local needs in their own ways. Labour would also scrap plans drawn up by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) for a nursery curriculum which sets down basic targets for levels of numeracy. literacy and general

knowledge.
Instead, it is examining a project set up by all major groups representing nursery and childcare organisations to design a new curriculum from birth to the age of eight.

The Early Childhood Education Forum is just finishing a first draft of its plan. Quality and

Diversity, Its authors say the SCAA curriculum is too rigid and could even be damaging. Instead, they propose five "foundations", based on active learning, pupil participation and imagination as well as on building a sense of individuality and of group membership.



Child's view: A young member of Barne Hill nursery, in Brent, north London, run for the council by Childcare Enterprise Photograph: Philip Meeci

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Council finds childcare makes commercial sense

A socialist council which has gone into business in an attempt to improve its museries could provide a model for Labour's future plans. North Tyneside has set up a private company which has even taken over all the nurseries in the Tory London Borough of Brent, writes Fran Abrams.

Five years ago North Typeside had 95 mursery places for children from deprived backgrounds. Now it has more than 400, half of which are for the needy.

The council began in a small way five years ago, by expanding its two day nurseries and making a charge to parents who could afford to pay for the extra places. Then it expanded

CASE STUDY into after-school care, holiday. schemes and a nanny agency, followed by a consultancy ser-

vice for employers on childcare.

A contract to run a nursery for Department of Social Security offices just outside the council's boundary followed, and further work rolled in from as far afield as Ipswich and Glasgow. In 1992 the council decided to set up an independent, nonprofit-making company to run the services, and Childcare

Enterprise Ltd was born. Last year Breut council ad-

Childcare Enterprise applied and won a long-term contract for seven museries in the borough Jackie Doughty, the head of children's services for North Tyneside and also chief executive of the company, said that plans to work with the private sector must be carefully moni-

"The situation that our company is in is that there are certain standards laid down about quality of service and the em-ployment conditions of staff. There aren't lots of hungry shareholders and so its slightly vertised for an organisation to different from some private take on its nursery services. sector arrangements, "she said.

tored to ensure that quality is

Postal union sets deadline

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

Royal Mail employees are responsible for almost one in three working days lost in British industry through indus-of deliberately delaying the first trial action, according to internal management estimates.

The 38,000 days lost through strikes in 1984-85, often involving unlawful wildcat stoppages, are seen as a symptom of a general breakdown in relations between management and their employees throughout the

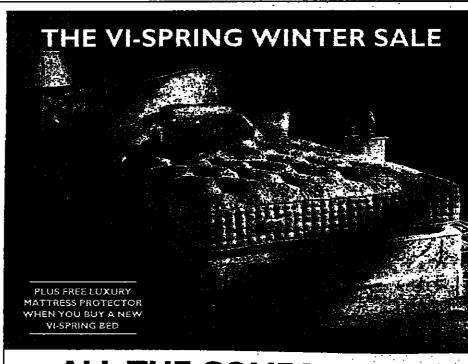
been sparked by fears over the future of the service. In partic-

Within the last 12 months, the national strike action. Royal Mail has been hit by walkouts all over Britain, with the most most disruptive action hitting services in Scotland, London and the North-East.

Negotiators on behalf of the Union of Communication second post and have issued a deadline of 17 January.

If the union remains unsatthat should be sent out later. - tatives are to call for a ballot on

. At the heart of the union's concerns is a fear over the thousands of jobs that could be lost if the second delivery is becomes extinct.



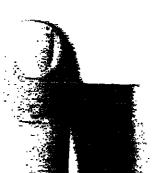
ALL THE COMFORT AT SPECIALLY REDUCED PRICES

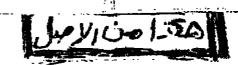
magazine. The unique VI-Spring system ensures that every inch of the bed independently responds calico, honeycombed and then uphoistered with opulent layers of soft cotton and on most models upholstery is 100% natural) before being hand sewn together. Covered in beautiful 19th century

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24 months

Turkish elections: The Army is alarmed as ex-detainee's party upsets the Establishment

Pro-Islamic Welfare wins famous victory

In one of the more extraordinary upsets in Turkey's 73-year-ing to set up an Islamic state. Mr old republic, a pro-Islamic party - Pabakan was acquitted in 1985. overtook the squabbling secu-

victory as results came in from the republican order.

24 December's general electric The Turkish anned forces 24 December's general electric The Turkish armed forces tions, even though he won with the the three grantians of just 21.32 per-cent of the vote Party," said the flamboyant Mx Erbakan, 69, flushed with suc-

The prime minister, Tansai Parliamentary arithmetic will stay on as caretal control of the establishment of the es ident Suleyman Demirel nominates her successor. As Mr Erbakan demanded that he be chosen, he was cheered by supporters watching him on television, some of them young "Allah-u-Akbar (God is Great).

But Mr Erbakan needs a parliamentary majority, or 276 deputies to vote for his government programme. Mr Demirel said last week he will seek such a premier. The hint Party leader Mesut Yilmaz. who were close runners up in

over and charged him with try-

founded by Kemai Ataturk. Supports and is said to be keen.
The veteran Welfare Party that Mis Iller and Mr Yilmaz leader, Necmettin Erbakan, on the centire right patch up yesterday claimed a famous their girls and unite to save

and have absays stood against zealotry and reaction," the Chief of General Staff, Ismail cess after years of being mocked . Hakki Karadayi warned before

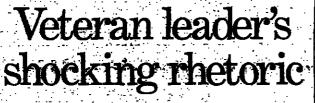
Ciller did unexpectedly well, winning about 135 seats with 19.20 per cent of the vote. Mr Yilmaz won 132 seats with

with "that woman" Mrs Ciller.

They would have to form a the left-wing parties, former pre-mier Bulent Ecevit's Democratic Left Party, which won 75 seats with 14.65 per cent of the was directed at Mrs Ciller of the vote, or Deniz Baykal's Re-True Path Party and Motherland publican People's Party, which won 50 seats with 10.71 per cent.

Others among the 12 comre election.

The army will also be watch-rount a 10 per cent national



Istanbul - Having found a niche defending the Islamic vote with two parties in 1970s, Necmettin Erbakan thrived on brinkmanship in the terrible Turkish political morass of that decade, writes Hugh Pope. He became deputy prime minister three times for a total of more than three years.

Although there is now a

hard-working, modernist wing in Mr Erbakan's Walfare Party, which enabled it to capture many votes that used to go to the left wing he himself appears to have changed few of his ideas about taking taxes in kind, a banking system without Necmettin Erbakan: Speaks interest rates and the imminent of a Muslim commonwealth advent of an Austim commonwealth advent of an Austim commonwealth.

ping out of Nate and rejecting

THE

with a recent Customs Union agreement with Europe from 1

over and make an agreement that is not exploitative of more than \$10bn of reserves.

Erbakan's rheisere endsymbles, real intentions begin, but of such political instability shivers go down the group of such political instability shivers go down the group of such political instability shivers go down the group of such political instability shivers go down the group of such political instability ahead, the Turkish in a slumped against the dollar and the stock market dropped sharply.



Asked what he would do all talk of compromise on Cyprus.

As neighbouring Tehran January, the communication of a radio cheered a "change of 32-year condess that he has orientation towards the Islamic vowed to the in. Mr Britakan world", Mr Erbakan's first prosaid: "We want to develop posal on election night was to relations with everyone, but freeze foreign currency in the that agreement was one sided. Central Bank because it had We will call those Westerners signed futures contracts

Blaze survivors blockade hospital

Dahwali, India (AP) — Outhospital had only 10 beds for a raged at the poor medical treat population of 50,000. The hospital refused to comment. weekend fire that killed more

Anthorities said 538 people were confirmed killed, but the toll could rise to 600. Some 250 people were injured.

Hospital in Dabwali, the only government-run hospital in the town 125 miles (200kms) northeast of New Delhi. Doctors had so redirect hundreds of in- angered by a reported remark jured people to liospitals in

he this a way to run a hosprint?" asked Smesh Singh, a later denied he made the proposter. Mr Singh said the remark

The blaze had spread swiftly

than 500, thousands of protesters resterday tore down a hospital wall and blocked police from removing bodies.

The olaze had spread swiftly through the plywood building.
Many were killed by the stamped towards the only working error. The other articles are the only working. from removing bodies. exit. The other exit was locked.
Saturday's fire destroyed a Police were investigating Ke-

community ball where school—wal Kishan Dhamija, the hall's children were putting on an end—owner, on suspicion of cruminal of-term event for a crowd of negligence. Mr Dhamija acabout 1,000, including their knowledged the hall was built parents. uesman newspaper reported yesterday.
Police said shoddy wiring at

the hall may have caused the Residents were outraged by fire. They were checking the the scant facilities at the Civil electrical wiring.

electrical wiring.

About 5:000 protesters blocked the removal of 18 bodies from the hospital. The demonstrators said they were by a state minister that such disasters were common in India.

ing closely, having jailed Mr Er-bakan for eight months during with a big turnout of 85 per cent, its last 1988-83 military take-the Kurdish nationalist leftthe Kurdish nationalist left-wing party HADEP won only 4.17 per cent of the vote, showing that many Kurds, perhaps 20 per cent of the population, pre-

> "Grey Wolves" of the National Action Party also fell short of the threshold, polling just 8.18

"We must find a workable overnment, without prejulice," said Mr Yilmaz yesterday. He did not rule out talks with Mrs Ciller and he said he would talk with Mr Erbakan's Islamists "if they changed their philosophy." Mr Erbaken, however, clear

ly hopes that as prime minister designate it is he who will be ersuading conservatives in Mr Yilmaz's party to join him.



The twisted wreckage of a train belonging to the Spanish state railway, Renfe, yesterday, after an accident in which two

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Children of genocide seek lost innocence

name for so small a girl: Tumuhawenimana. But there it is marked on a red plastic bracelet around her wrist. She is only six years old but she seems older than that. She sits on the edge of the mattress, listening and looking though she understands little of what we're saying. Not that there's much else for her to do in the hut: there are no

toys, no games, no books. The little girl with the impossibly long name is one of six children being looked after by 15-year-old Veronique. They came to Goma nearly a yearand-a-half ago, part of the human tide which flooded into Zaire as killing and conflict continued in Rwanda. The father of the twin girls and of the little boy - Veronique's nieces and nephew - was killed, she says. by the Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels whom they were fleeing. Soon after their arrival in Kibumba refugee camp. Veronique parents and her two sisters died of cholera.

So now there are six of them living in a tiny shelter made

Britain's

out the rain. The floor is mud. the door a sodden, ragged blanket. All around them are

thousands of similar huts.

Kibumba, which holds some

186,000 men, women and children, is one of five camps in the Goma area. There are more than a million Rwandans, mostly Hutus, in camps in Zaire's eastern region. This is the biggest concentration of refugees in the world and they show no sign of wanting to go home. Each day only a dozen or two mount the buses which are there to bring them across the border should they wish to go. Most say it is too dangerous, that they will be persecuted or imprisoned by the Tutsis if they go back. Unfortunately, there is growing evidence to justify such claims.

I was introduced to Veronique and her brood by a young man who works in the camp for the Irish aid agency. Goal. He too is a refugee and

THE BIGGEST BRANDS...

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that things in the camps are getting worse. The refugees might have settled into some semblance of a routine but what a miserable and demoralising one it is. They squat amid the lush, green hills, in sight of their homeland a couple of miles across the border, wondering if ever they will be able to return.

Strange, conflicting thoughts rattle around your mind in these camps. At one moment, your heart goes out to these people whose lives have been reduced to a pathetic daily search for food, water and firewood in a country not their own. Then you look at one of these ravaged Hutu faces and you ask vourself: is this one a killer? Did this one wield a machete and cut off the arms of his neighbour's children? Did this one butcher his friend's wife simply because she was a Tutsi?

There were child killers in Rwanda as well as adults. I have seen some of the suspects in de-

LEXMARK WINWRITER

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tention centres: children as young as seven have been charged with genocide. But I refuse to believe that Veronique or any of her clan are guilty of these crimes. They look too vulnerable, too innocent. But then so did the seven-year-old (ironically called Innocent) whom I met in Rwanda a few months ago: I was told he had helped his parents chop up their neighbour's kids.

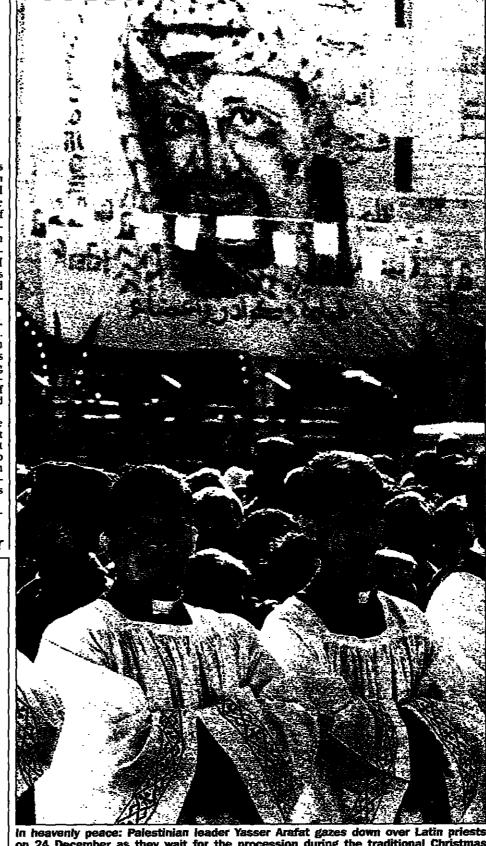
But they're not all killers. Veronique is an amazing girl. She should be at school, out with her friends discussing clothes and boys. Instead she's bringing up a clatter of kids in a stink-ing but with only half a bag of maize meal and beans to feed them for the next two weeks.

"I've had enough of living like this," she says. "There's not enough for the children to eat here. We might have to go back home next year. But then there's not much for us there either. And I've heard there's killing again in Rwanda.

What sort of 1996 is this fam-

NO CATCHES, NO SPECIAL

David Orr



In heavenly peace: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat gazes down over Latin priests on 24 December as they wait for the procession during the traditional Christmas march on Bethlehem's Manger Square. This Christmas is the first that Christian Palestinians are celebrating under Palestinian self-rule Photograph: AFP

KwaZulu bloodshed mounts

ROBERT BLOCK

On South Africa's scenic south the time they finished shooting ast of KwaZulu-Natal, in the and stabbing, at least nine peo-Shobashohane settlement, yesterday begat a Yuletide of

blood. As Shobashobane, a stronghold of President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), woke to a arrived to restore calm. sunny Christmas morning, hundreds of supporters of the rival Inkatha Freedom Party of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi descended. Armed with spears,

IN BRIEF

300 Chechens die

cions of heavy casualties, the Russian commander in Chech-

nya said yesterday that nearly

300 civilians had been killed during more than a week of heavy fighting in the breakaway republic's second-largest city.

Russian troops have kept Gudermes sealed off since Saturday. The blockade has aroused

the suspicions of even the progovernment Russian media.

Several reports have accused the military of trying to hide some-

thing, perhaps the scale of the casualties. One refugee who fled before the blockade said he

passed 30 fresh corpses in his block alone on his way out of

Kim slams 'traitors'

Seoul -- North Korean leader

Kim Jong II delivered a blis-

tering attack on economic reformists and ideological

revisionists yesterday, calling them "traitors" who are jeopardising the country. It was not

clear if the statement fore-

shadowed a policy shift or an

impending purge of potential opponents in the communist

state as it faces possible famine

this winter. A US defence offi-

cial said last week that thou-

sands of people have been

forced to attend mass execu-

tions in the North in an appar-

ent effort to nip potential

Philadelphia - Smoke that

spread through a primate house

after a fire broke out at the

nation's oldest zoo early on

Sunday killed 23 rare gorillas. orang-utans, gibbons and

lemurs. The primates, all en-

dangered species, died apparently of smoke inhalation. Ten others were treated for smoke

dissent in the bud.

Fire kills gorillas

axes and guns, the raiders attacked at 8am, torching 80 homes and looting 15 others. By ple, including a baby, were

dead, and 20 were wounded.
"It's a sick way to spend
Christmas," said police superintendent Jeff Crombout after soldiers and special police units Yesterday's attack was the

third mass killing on KwaZulu-Natal's south coast in 11 days. At least 28 people were slaughtered in the three massacres, sig-

olence in South Africa's most troubled province. The killings have been

blamed on a turf war between the ANC and Inkatha in the run up to local elections in March. Police suspected that vesterday's raid was aimed at pushing ANC supporters out of the area.

However, the brutal modus operandi of the killers have also raised suspicions that a socalled "third force" alliance of Inkatha extremists and rightwing security officials may be responsible for the bloodshed.

Aristide still the power behind throne

PHIL DAVISON Latin America Correspondent

René Préval, of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Lavalas coalition, will take over from the president on 7 February after a landslide vic-tory in this month' elections.

Official results announced over the Christmas weekend showed Mr Préval, a 52-year-old agronomist and former Prime Minister, winning 88 per cent of the December 17 vote. His closest challenger, former na-tional police chief Leon Jeune, scored only 2.5 percent.

Despite Mr Préval's overwhelming victory, the low turnout of only 28 per cent gave the result an interesting twist, according to residents of the cap-ital, Port-au-Prince. It showed that Mr Aristide, not Mr Preval, remains the most popular man in Haiti and will be seen as the power behind the throne for the next five years.

Had Titid (Mr Aristide's nickname) been a candidate, there would have been a massive turn-out," said Jeau-Robert, a Port-au-Prince taxi driver. "People were not voting for Préval. They were voting for Lavalas (Waterfall)." When Mr Aristide swept to the presidency in 1990, the turn-out was almost 100 per cent.

Many Haitians believe Mr Aristide, for whom Mr Préval served as Prime Minister in 1991 before the former was ousted in a military coup, deliberately encouraged a low turn-out to send a message to Mr Préval. The message: I got you elected but I showed you who controls the Haitian people.

Election observers from the Organisation of American States (OAS) were among those blaming the low turn-out on Mr Aristide, saying he deliberate-ly withheld endorsement of Mr Préval until two days before the election. Mr Aristide's staff and many Haitians responded with disdain, saying many of the OAS team spent the election observing each other in bars.

An OAS media spokesman

shocked many by drunkenly lifting the dress of an American newswoman at a post-election party while another OAS observer was thrown out of a ho-

tel bar for drunken behaviour. Mr Preval's first speech as president-elect, in Port-au-Prince on Saturday night. showed the problems be faces. He had to speak by candlelight

amid a four-hour blackout. Mr Preval's biggest problem, however, will be preventing or dealing with a resurgence of violence once American and oth-



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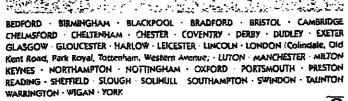
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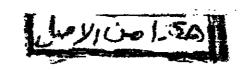
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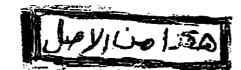


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moments that made the year

When private parts get exposed in public

It has not been a great year for the broadbrush theories of history. A century from now a cursory trawl of the cyberilbrary will not offer many great moments. No walls fell, no new order came into being, no colossus strode the world stage — even China's ancient puppetmaster, Deng Xiao Ping, confounded medical science and failed to discover in person whether he had been experient the Mon in person whether he had been exercising the Man-date of Heaven. At home, John Major's understated premiership was not toppled by the disappointingly unconvincing challenge by (of all people) his Weish

In the absence of what the BBC habitually describes as "momentous events", 1995 will almost certainly be best remembered for the tragic assassination of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin, the voyeuristic pleasures of the OI trial, the extraordinary speciacle that was Dianarama and the signing of the (as yet untested) Bosnian peace

But if nothing much was served up, that does not mean that nothing much was cooking. For, as the state retreats, how should the new dispensation between private and public, citizen and the market, be controlled and regulated?

The most prosaic examples of this theme were lic and private realms were unmediated, with no

provided by the performance of the privatised util-ities. Throughout the year, large payments to sen-ior executives provoked the kind of outcry that suggests the public still believes they should be run as a public service. Yorkshire Water's lamentable performance in dealing with the drought was just the most extreme example of how these previously closed utilities were unused to the public scrutiny that comes with claiming to treat your

All year, the names of that new breed of quasi-public servants, the regulators, have been hitting the headlines. Professor Stephen Littlechild went back to the electricity companies and de-manded a better price deal for consumers; after what appeared to be a very large error of judge-ment, Clare Spottiswoode found herself at loggerheads with British Gas over competition in the industry; Oflot's director-general, Peter Davis, ended the year on a low note, subject to suspicions about the closeness of his relationship with the company that he was regulating. Overall, the effect of the regulation system has been to lift into public glare debates and decisions that were once

But some parts of the dispute between the pub-

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regulators or rules to adjudicate upon them - and there the outcomes were fascinating. Some of these disputes took place in areas where the nation state has no jurisdiction. Shell, though right about the science of dumping the Brent Spar oil rig in the North Sea, was forced to back down because of the consumer outcry against it, particularly in Germany and the Netherlands. Protestors all but ended the trade in live animals from Britain, aided by the reluctance of ferry companies to invoke the ire of their calf-loving customers. Consumer power, it seemed. could be mobilised to force change.

Legislators, too, found themselves responding to the public thirst for accountability. True, the Scott

report on arms sales to Iraq, like the new British Library, has been promised with each turn of the seasons and yet the grass has risen, the sun has shone, leaves have fallen, chill winds have blown

did appear. Conservative MPs stood like Canute's courtiers, uncomprehendingly defying the waves of concern over their lobbying and other activities - and got very wet.

Nolan is a judge and 1995 saw m'luds become an important new element in providing checks on the elective dictatorship. A new generation of pro-active judges, led by Lord Justice Taylor and exem-plified by Stephen Sedley, have handed out canings to the overmighty executive in court and in print. Taylor's magisterial and contemptuous repudiation of Michael Howard's speech on sentencing to the Conservative Party conference was a welcome break with tradition. Little wonder that the judiciary are now lining up behind a Bill of Rights.

But the question of public and private rights has cut both ways. A small group of moral majoritarians, allied to a newspaper, looked at one stage as though they might derail new legislation on divorce before it was even proposed. Unrepresenta-tive though they were, this group was articulating the sense of unease that many feel about the "breakdown" of traditional structures of responsibility. Less backward-looking, but much more

and no report has been forthcoming. But the recommendations of the Nolan committee certainly

Labour (in the person of Shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw) on the anti-social activities of "squeegee merchants", addicts, alcoholics and graf-fiti artists. The talk of balancing rights with responsibilities is attractive, but it all raised many more questions in 1995 than it answered.

Moving decisively from private into public with devastating effect was the hurt, bitterness and hope of the Princess of Wales. A heroine for the Age of Confessionalism, Diana bared her soul to millions all over the world. No one need ever suffer in silence again. Not when there is a radio phone-in or documentary that they can talk to.

We are so morally confused, so frequently, these

days, partly because the line between the public and the private is shifting so fast. So much of what we formerly thought were private matters - the grounds we use to justify divorce, the lifestyles of ngle mothers - have been turned into public and often political issues, while much of what was traditionally dealt with through the public sector now depends on competition, the market and regulation to satisfy citizens who have become con-sumers. No politics has yet proved completely adept at straddling the new worlds of the public and the private. The first to do so will have won

Devastating Di

At year's end, Britain has two royal families: the old, slow, official one and a freelance competitor, founded by an embittered single mother. Martin Jacques reports

The most riveting TV interview of the year? Princess Diana. Once again, the Royal Family has been at the centre of public debate. Not so long ago, coverage of royalty amounted to little more than tittle-tattle, court circulars and obsequious commentary on small news stories in the Indemaent). No more. The state of the Royal Family has become the most important political drama being played out in Britain, Westminster notwithstanding. As we strug-gle to reinvent ourselves as a nation, our most ancient institution, the monarchy, is the metaphor for our times. Far from being an irrelevant soap opera about an anachronistic and aristocratic family, it is a compelling story that touches For more than a decade

Princess Diana has played one of the big parts: this year she emerged as the star billing. She was reborn. As we watched that interview, it was hard to recall the shy princess who married the not-so-young prince in 1981. Even that more recent incarnation, the Sloane of Chelsea Harbour Club and expensive German cabriolets, was obliged to take a back seat to the New Di, as Tony Blair might describe her. While the Royal Family has failed to reinvent itself, Diana has comprehensively succeeded. In that interview she broke with the claustrophobic constraints of the House of Windsor and the severe limitations of her own background to present a very different kind of image. New Di is a product of our

time. She spoke with an extraordinary directness about her

The most compelling event umphed. She is stronger, more a "democratic" Scandinavian-of the end of 1995? The confident, more able to take style monarchy. New Di is not the royal marriage. on the world. Which is fortunate, because she has faced a formidable adversary in the past few years.

For what transpired during the interview was that she had fought these dark forces in the permafrost of the Royal Family. From her description, sentence and intonation, she was confronted with a family attitude that dismissed such behaviour as a sign of "weak-ness" and "madness". She was progressively marginalised and isolated. It is difficult to

there yet, but the direction of her thinking is clear. Who would have thought, just two short years ago, that the greatest threat to the Royal Family as we know it would come from the wife of the next king? The ways of the world are more bizarre than the dreams

Of course it is possible that: the Panorama interview represented the highwater mark of that challenge. Charles against Diana, let alone New Di, is a thoroughly unequal contest. imagine a more inhospitable But with Diana banished from environment in which to the royal marriage and royal But with Diana banished from tackle such private turmoil. circles, the dynamics could It would appear that the prove very different. She will Royal Family is as backward in become an outsider, cut off

Who would have thought, two years ago, that the greatest threat to the Royal Family would come from the wife of the next king?

Somehow, though, New Di has escaped. She is the epitome of the modern woman: candid about her personal problems, able to converse about the pri-vate as well as the public, eager to explore her own identity. happy to juggle with different roles, keen to care, hooked on health, fitness and psycho-babble. She is a product of postfeminism. She is a new kind of royal, the royal for our age. As such she represents a formida-ble challenge to the Royal Family. Poor old Charles.

In the gentlest and nicest way possible, she threw down post-natal depression and bul-imia. Here was a woman who, interview. She suggested that like so many others, has fought the Royal Family needed to some desperate struggles. make itself more open and accessible. She has hinted that There are no simple victories she would like to use public. in such battles, yet she showed transport and fly scheduled, every sign that she has tri- These are the first stirrings of

its attitude towards psycho-logical disorders as it is towards the modern world. from a crucial part of what made her interesting, the fact that she was married to the next king and at the very epi-centre of the Royal Family. She will become less special, a media star but little more. This is a plausible scenario. It is the one that the Royal Family

hopes will come true. It is not difficult to imagine what might happen to her under these circumstances. With a good settlement under her designer belt, she might opt for the quiet life, perhaps in harness with a new partner. Alternatively, she may react by growing increasingly strident, more and more heard and less and less listened to.

It is doubtful whether the Royal Household's favoured scenario will actually happen. Diana may soon be divorced from the next king but she will still be the mother of the nextbut-one king. Much as the Royal Family might want to lock her up in the Tower of London or send her to Australia, she will remain a crucial

figure in the royal entourage. The Royal Family's instinct towards Diana from the beginning of her private difficulties has been to marginalise and exclude. That is why she was branded as a little mad. Then, following the separation, key figures in the Royal Household fought long and hard to undermine her: she called them the Enemy. After the Panorama interview it seemed as if, finally and belatedly, the Royal Family had been forced to recognise that ostracising was not the best course of actrecognition, allowed back into the fold, given a public role. But that was a false reading. It still wants to deal with her by punishment and exclusion. How else can one interpret the Queen's letter to Charles and Diana urging divorce? Worse, there is even talk of the Royal Family trying to roll back the years and seeking a return to splendid aristocratic isolation. The Royal Family is not just frightened of Diana, it is frightened of the modern

The underlying problem is not Diana, it is the Royal Family - an institution demonstrably out of date and increasingly out of touch which exudes anachronism: the crass handling of Diana, the other-worldliness of Charles (graphically portrayed in the Dimbleby programme), the culture and habits, the stiff upper lip and distaste for emotion, the language and accents, the courtiers and the hangers-on. The institution is in desperate need of reform. The only really modern royal is Diana. The Royal Family could listen and learn, use her as a way of modernising. There is no sign of that. In-stead, it is set on vindictiveness and revenge. It cannot win. The public will side with Diana and, as the years go by, the position of the Royal Family will appear increasingly strange and inappropriate.



Mary Bastholm, missing since 1968, was seen with the serial killer. Will Bennett reflects on the mysteries of Cromwell Street

Please tell me: did Fred West kill my sister?

The words of the telegram from his parents telling him that his younger sister. Mary, had gone missing are still engraved on Peter Bastholm's mind 28 years after he

"It said 'sister Mary missing, par-ents distressed' and that was it," said Mr Bastholm. "It was a week after she disappeared that I heard about it. I remember that it was a Saturday." He remembers, too, that it was a seemingly endless 20-hour flight from Singapore, where he was serv-

Britain and he will never forget the agonies that his parents went through after his return. I felt so powerless, there was nothing that I could do except be there with them," said 51-year-old Mr Bastholm, who works as a bar-

Until the arrest of Frederick and Rosemary West in February 1994, nothing was known about what had happened to Mary, 15. She disappeared after leaving the family home in Gloucester at 7.15pm on 6 January 1968 to catch a bus to visit

her boyfriend. Fear that something dreadful had happened to her was sometimes replaced by a desperate hope that she had decided to go off and start a new life. Eventually both were superseded by a heavy-hearted acceptance that they would ing with the Royal Navy, back to never find out. .

Mary's mother, Doreen, died aged 73 in 1993, the misery of not knowing what had happened to her daughter unresolved. For some time after she disappeared Doreen never left home, saving: "I want to be here in case Mary comes."

Mr Bastholm said: "It was continual distress for the family, really, but eventually it was something you tended to live with and it

became sort of normal." But when police went to the Wests' home at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and the remains of more and more young women were found there, Mr Bastholm knew instinctively that the mystery might

finally be solved.
"It was my first reaction, I thought 'here we go' and everything seemed to fall into place," he said. Sadly both for him and for his father. Christian, now 85 and partially blind, it was not to be that

simple.
The evidence that Frederick West was responsible for Mary's death mounted. A local man called Vincent Oakes came forward to say

recognised as West with Mary several times shortly before her disappearance. West had been a regular visitor

to the café where Mary worked as The knowledge of

what happened to most of the victims has not helped

a waitress and he told Janet Leach. who attended scores of his rambling interviews with police as an impartial observer, that Mary was buried

ders and told detectives where the remains were buried, he never admitted to killing Mary. No one has ever been charged with her murder and her family are now left

in a painful limbo. The knowledge of what hap-pened to most of the Wests victims has not helped. During the trial of Rosemary West, who was convicted in November of 10 murders, it was revealed that most of the Wests' victims were bound, gagged and sex-ually abused before being killed and

Mr Bastholm said: "It has not made it any better because it has brought it all back again. Years do heal wounds, but this does make you start to realise what happened

Coping with the fact that the used, and it is obviously some-

spent their last days alone and ter-rified in a tiny cellar, unable to cry out and unable to resist, has been desperately hard for all the victims

But at least the relatives of those whose remains were found had the small consolation of being able to bury them, the funeral and the grave both providing focal points for grief and a feeling that at last they had been laid to rest.

Mr Bastholm, his wife, Denise,

and his father, who now lives in an old people's home, do not even have that to cling to and are having to come to terms with the fact that she will never be found.

"It's very difficult not knowing where she is buried, I am sure that she is buried at one of the sites West

where that she should not be," said Mr Bastholm.

Mary was killed the year before Frederick West met Rosemary but, despite this, the Bastholm family has appealed to her to tell them anything she knows about where she might be buried. So far they have had no response from Durham Prison, where she is serving 10 life sentences.

The last hope that they might be able to give Mary a decent burial almost certainly died with Frederick West, who hanged himself in his prison cell on New Year's Day 1995, taking so many of his secrets

The Bastholm family's dilemma has been left unresolved by Rosemary West's trial and they feel cheated by her husband's death. For them the West case will never be over.

Calm followed the Kobe earthquake. But anger is brewing in the makeshift 'Tent Village', says Richard Lloyd Parry

The city with a broken heart

Frs Kawamura, the notary's gaman are showing. Suicide and mental illness are on the increase. Legal problems, caused dissident and the park in which by the massive destruction of she lives does not look much property, are proliferating. And, as the winter tightens its like a refugee camp, either. Spaced at decent intervals, grip, there is smouldering resbetween the swings and the children's sandpit, are 40 preentment of the city govern-ment and its handling of the fabricated huts, with a kitchen disaster. "We were so polite, so obedient," says Mrs Kawamura. block, bath house and open-air stage. Mrs Kawamura sits in the We hesitated to ask for anyheadquarters of "Tent Village", beside folding tables bearing thing. We forgot to insist on our notice boards, phones, a fax

Mrs Kawamura's struggle began immediately after the earthquake. No one died in her machine and a giant television. The whole thing resembles nothing so much as a well orgapartment building situated in anised archaeological dig. or a a modest, low-rent quarter summer camp run by a wholeclose to the main railway sta-tion. But it was uninhabitable, some Christian youth group. But, to the Kobe city authoriand 450 people converged on the little park, sleeping in ties. Mrs Kawamura and her neighbours are outlaws, visible improvised tents and cars, with symptoms of an unger that has been all but forgotten in Kobe's no water and power and very miraculous recovery from the There was also another probearthquake which devastated it

lem. Despite a seeming lack of One of the most remarkable any preparations for the disaster, the city had allocated certhings about the disaster was the calm that followed it. Even tain parks and recreation spaces as official evacuation in the chaotic aftermath, with areas. This wasn't one of the 300),000 homeless refugees surdesignated areas," says Mrs Kawamura, "It wasn't until viving on inadequate supplies. looung was virtually unknown. three days after the earthquake Members of the local yukuza that we got food. Every day we crime syndicates were pictured handing out rice balls to evacrequested toilets, water, food. But instead of getting more, we uces. Entire families lived for months head-to-toe with their Eventually, the Japanese neighbours in schools, gymnasiums and parks. The Japanese Self-Defence Forces raised

quality of gaman - uncomplainsturdier tents for the parkdwellers. Those who could ing self-restraint - seemed to moved to hotels or the homes have prevented a physical disasof relatives: those who remter from turning into a social ained organised the park into a But, 10 months later, the Japanese village in miniature. consequences of sublimating Meanwhile, the city unveiled a

the reconstruction of Kobe: the ruined areas would be levelled and rebuilt in earthquakeresistant materials and the 60,000 remaining refugees would be relocated in temporary housing.
The official refugee houses are rent-free, but have none of

the homeliness of the spontancous tent villages - rows of grim, identical prefabs, beyond the mountains, miles out of Kobe and with inadequate transport links. Many of the refugees were glad to move there, but a minority refused. In August, the city cut off aid to the makeshift evacuation centres. Some 1,800 people, including Mrs Kawamura, stubbornly remain in illegal occupation of the parks and public buildings. If the temporary houses

were nearer, we might move," she says. "Many of the people here work in the port or the market, and it would be impossible for them to get to work on time. Some of them are old and they want to be near their hospitals and clinics. Some of us just don't want to leave here because this is our community. I don't think this is egotism. We just want to choose where we

The city officials insist that the land chosen for the houses was the nearest available public land of sufficient size. They cite the byzantine legal difficulties in drawing up recon-struction plans on which every apartment owner in a ruined

block, for instance, can agree. But the temporary housing areas are an unsatisfactory solution and have become breed-

occupants have committed suicide, and there have been even more "lonely deaths" ~ elderly people, bereaved or separated by the earthquake from family and friends, who have died alone and remained unnoticed for days or weeks. The burden of suffering from the beginning has fallen on the poor, the old and the immigrant communities - Koreans and Thais, many of them second-generation who clustered in the vulnerable wooden areas. Of the dead, 31 per cent were aged over 70 and a full half - nearly 3.000 people were over 60. In the Kobe area as a whole, one in 400 of the general population died; if you were a Korean in the worsthit areas, your chances of being killed increased to one in 150.

Apart from being poor, they were politically voiceless and the communities they occupied - often old wooden houses on small plots, handed down from generation to generation - were Kobe. With a little cynicism it is possible to see their demise as a silver lining to the economists and city planners of the ambitious city "At least in the school gym-

nasiums people had some space above their heads, at least they were with people they knew and who knew them," says Michio Sakai, a former journalist and now a professor at Kobe University. "The old communities are all being scattered now, and it almost looks deliberate: for years they've been wanting to widen the ing grounds for alienation and areas, and now they can."



The day the Land of the Free lost its innocence

the great American heartland. and the split second it took a utes beforehand. colossal truck bomb to explode. Eight months on, the and Terry Nichols, old army half-forgotten, an outrage amid so many other outrages, buried by the unceasing torrent of trivia, trash and tragedy that modern America seems to be. And yet, as much if not more than any other single event of recent years, it has changed the way in which the

country looks at itself. In the most devastating act of ferrorism ever on American soil. In9 people were killed when the yellow Ryder truck containing a ton of primitive explosive deternated outside the Alfred P Murrah federal office building in downtown Oklahoma City at 9am on 19 April, ripping half the structure away and collapsing its reinforced concrete and steel girders as if they were a card eastle. A score of the victims were toddlers and young chil-

inside the building only min-Two men, Timothy McVeigh

gleaming "Phoenix Plan" for

with the crime, and both face the death penalty if convicted. Since that April day, the starof Newt Gingrich, the Speaker in the House of Representatives, has waxed and waned. the US Air Force pilot Captain Scott O'Grady became a national hero when he was rescued by the US Marines after his plane was shot down over Bosnia, Divine Brown and countless others have enjoyed Andy Warhol's 15 minutes of fame. Louis Farrakhan had his march, General Colin Powell decided not to enter the 1996 presidential race and, of course, OJ Simpson was found not guilty. Not one of these events, however, told America as much about itself as Oklahoma City and its

It seems so long ago now, that bright April morning in the propert American heartland.

The Oklahoma City bombing forced America to confront a new cades preventing cars from passing in front of the White enemy within. Rupert Cornwell reports

> innocence. This, opined the columnists and leader writers. was the moment when a nation long the target of terrorists realised it was a breeder of terrorists as well - and terrorists who were prepared to indulge in random acts against their fellow citizens. And, as the investigation into the Oklahoma City bombing pro-ceeded, it laid bare another America, previously only halfsuspected, a submerged archipelago of far-right militias and hate groups, some of them trained and organised as small militias, united by paranoia and a loathing of the federal government and the agencies that enforce its power.

This, apparently, was the mindset of Timothy McVeigh. among the more disconcerting In the shock of tragedy, the anti-heroes of recent times.

instant assessment was unani- How was it that a pleasant, authorities' handling of the haired, olive-skinned suspect The FBI operation at Waco McVeigh in several places who had served with distinction in the Gulf war before had been directed by agents before the bombing and whose

> ate slaughter of the innocent? revenge against innocent employees of the federal gov-Quite possibly, the Okla-It laid bare another America, a submerged archipelago of far-right

based in the Alfred Murrah

building. But disgust is one

thing. A cold-blooded act of

homa City tragedy is a linear descendant of the one on another 19 April. at Waco, Texas, two years earlier, when 80 Branch Davidians died as federal agents stormed David Koresh's compound. McVeigh had visited the Waco site, and had been disgusted by the John Doe No 2 the thick-

Canada. It was there that the

ing death threats to Judge

Lance Ito and other major lig-

ures in the trial. And it was in

Toronto this month that first

Marcia Clark, and then John-

nie Cochran, arrived on com-

peting whirlwind tours, staying at the same hotel.

Cochran, in town to pro-mote an African-Canadian

leaving the US Army, could

turn into an embittered drifter

and then plotter of a deliber-

militias and hate groups Much in the case remains unanswered. Only McVeigh and Nichols have been charged, yet police have not expressly ruled out the possi-

captured. Did he exist? If so, how has he eluded the biggest manhunt America has seen in decades? If not, how did the authorities come to believe he Only the trial will reveal whether McVeigh and Nichols are guilty and, if so, their motives for committing the crime - and to what extent the

drawing the FBI released 24

hours after the bombing? No

John Doe No 2 has since been

botched 1993 assault in Waco was a factor. But both the date and venue of the trial are uncertain. Proceedings may not now begin until autumn

Inevitably, Oklahoma City's repercussions have reached

OJ Simpson's great vanishing act

Having feasted on the spectacle of the sporting hero in court, America now

seems inclined to treat him like so much cold turkey, writes Tim Cornwell

around federal buildings across the country. More subtly, President Clinton's powerful, empathetic leadership at a moment of national supreme grief began his political recov-ery from the electoral disaster of November 1994. After their stunning capture of both houses of Congress, the Republicans found themselves blamed, however unfairly, for the intemperate anti-government chetoric of the party's far right and its radio talkshowhost soulmates - rhetoric, critics said, which in the case of Oklahoma City had been taken only too literally. In that sense the bombing, however unfairly.

reinforced the public impression of the Republicans as people who go too far, a perception which Mr Clinton will exploit to the utmost in his reelection campaign.
Politics aside, Oklahoma

on Pennsylvania community, the unaffected Avenue, and tighter security Midwestern solidarity and decency that shone through the ghastly days and nights afterwards as the death toll climbed and bodies were pulled under floodlights from the But the reaction had its less uplifting side. Take Ibrahim Ahmad, an Oklahoma City

computer technician, whose misfortune it was to leave that day to visit relatives in Jordan. He was arrested and detained. his name was released to the media and his family harassed, even though he had nothing to do with the crime. His misfortune was to have been of Arab extraction, near the scene of an outrage which everyone initially and auto-matically blamed on - to use CNN's revealing phrase -"men of Middle Eastern origin". The America of the Salem witches and McCarthy-

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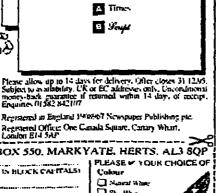
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One audience member took a microphone and asked her: "As a gay woman of the 1990s. I want to know, where's the short skirt and high heels?" Clark, wearing a black trouser suit, was completely silenced by this apparent reference to her as a lesbian sex object. room with an empty bottle of Simpson soap opera, the civil Asked later if the delicious tranquillisers beside him. trial in the wrongful death

Curiously, most of the rumour that she was dating the According to the Globe, he recent action in the OJ assistant prosecutor Christowas planning to snatch his two Simpson case has shifted to pher Darden were true, she Mounties arrested a man fax-Toronto alone,"

Barely three months after an estimated 100 million Americans watched the jury deliver its not guilty verdict, an extraordinary quiet reigns on the OJ Simpson front. The radio station that hired Kato Kaelin, the vacuous Simpson house guest and one-time softporn star, as a talkshow host, is now doing its best to get his dreary meanderings off the

legal clinic, urged Canadians to stand up to police abuse in the name of justice adminis-America's racial talkingtered fairly for all. Clark, shop has moved on to the Reverend Louis Farrakhan meanwhile, was billed as the world's most recognisable and his Million Man March, prosecutor, but in a lacklustre speech she seemed to be sayand presidential non-candiing her best for the book that date Colin Powell. OJ is alive she has sold for a reported in the world of the supermarket tabloids: elsewhere he has all but disappeared from pub-

> Blaring from the front page of the National Enquirer's Christmas edition is the revelation from a close family source that OJ was found dead drunk on the floor of his bed-

young children by his murdered wife. Sydney and Justin, from the custody of their

grandparents. Time magazine, by contrast, named Newt Gingrich as Man of the Year, and gave Johnnie Cochran an honourable men-

Three months after the not guilty verdict an extraordinary silence reigns

tion alongside the new tech-nology guru Bill Gates as one of four people who shaped the events of 1995. But OJ himself rated hardly a paragraph. Having feasted on Simpson for most of the year, the country temporarily seems inclined to treat him like so much cold turkey.

The second season of the Simpson soap opera, the civil

suit brought against Simpson by the families of Nicole Simpson and the waiter Ronald Goldman, is currently advertised for April 1996. The court case promises a thorough grilling for OJ and some of his seedier friends, in a courtroom where there is no protection of the right to silence. Yet the case may not

even he televised. There was a flicker of interest this month when Pania Barbieri, the OJ ex-girlfriend who posed for glossy maga-zines with very little on, was called to give preliminary testimony in the case, Barbieri said that at 7am on the day of the murders she left a "Dear John" message on OJ's answering machine, telling him she no longer wanted to

OJ himself came to court to watch, and there was a rare glimpse of him leaving through a parking lot. But his own lips have been sealed. apparently on the advice of his attorneys, pending trial.

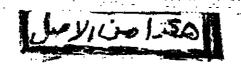
The much talked "infomercial" for Simpson to broadcast his innocence to the in the world, and casts him world has not materialised; down more quickly."

major US publishers, it is said, have even proved queasy about a new OJ book. There is much speculation about just how much of OI's personal fortune, once estimated at \$10m. is left. The tabloids agree on one point: that Sydney Simpson, OJ's 10-year-old daughter by Nicole, is shunning her father. The National Enquirer recommends placing Simpson on a suicide watch.

In 1921 Fatty Arbuckle, a celebrated actor who played greedy fat men alongside the Keystone Cops and Charlie Chaplin, was found innocent. but widely assumed to be guilty, in the killing of a Hollywood starlet.

His films were banned, his career ruined and though he found work as a director under the pseudonym "Will B Good", he died in obscurity 10 years later. "The American public is ardent in its hero worship and quite as ruthless in destroying its idols in any walk of life," Arbuckle observed. "It elevates a man more quickly than any nation





Emot abort

11.19-75

battered and frozen, after a brave battle against the elements. After her conquest of tions the world was asking.

Everest, unaided and without

There had already been oxygen, that is what we had come to expect of the tough mother-of-two. She would be found safe and a new chapter

When, therefore, five days after she went missing, the man who organised her expedition said: "Face it. She isn't coming back," there was a real and deep national sense of shock.

would be written in her remark-

The search switched away from the bodies of Alison and the six other climbers who died on the world's second highest peak, and focused instead on the minutiae of their loss.

The centre for this search was not the mountain itself, but a dusty one-horse town named Skardu in the footbills of the Karakoram mountain range in northern Pakistan, at 8,000 feet the last staging post for vicious 100mph blizzard that climbers before they head off plucked climbers from the ice

When Afison Hargreaves: for the 10-day trek to serious went missing on K2 in ice and rock. It was to this town, August, there was a general and a hotel called the K2 feeling that she would emerge. Motel, that the survivors of that the weather had been good

rumours from the people who organised the climb and from other climbers using satellite phones that the weather had been bad, too bad - and that perhaps Alison should not have made the attempt. First off the mountain, after

a week, were Lorenzo Orias and Pepe Garces, who were airlifted to safety with severe frostbite. In a frenzy of media activity, sometimes speaking through cracked and bleeding lips, they confirmed that Alison was dead. They had seen her clothes scattered down the mountain. Across a glacier they had seen a body. They were sure if was hers.

They defended her decision to climb. They said the weather had been good, but deterio-rated within minutes into a

Did 'summit fever' kill Alison Hargreaves on K2? Steve Boggan heard her fellow mountaineers give conflicting accounts of what led her to her fate

> was to be contradicted. First Captain Pawad Khan, the expedition's army liaison officer, said: "It was suicidal to climb and I told her so." Then another Spaniard, John Lazkano, who had earlier climbed with Lorenzo Ortiz, one of those who died, said: "I was at Concordia, below base camo The mountain was covered in cloud above Camp 2, I would not have chimbed. The problem was that there were many

sense of safety in numbers." Scott Fischer, an American who reached the summit of nearby Broad Peak at lunchtime on 13 August, said: "When we were coming down, the wind was coming up incredibly strongly and it was bitterly cold. We could see the people on K2 through our spotter scope and we knew they were going to be in trouble. I couldn't understand why they weren't turning

people pushing each other for the summit and they felt a false

the summit, they would have to come down in darkness." The definitive version took almost two weeks to arrive

back, in the form of Peter Hillary, son of Sir Edmund Hillary, the joint-first man to climb Everest. He stopped his climb and turned back as conditions worsened on the mountain. Quite simply, he said, those who went on were suffering from "summit fever".

There was a bizarre kind of chemistry in that group that meant they were going for the summit no matter what. Alison had shouted down to me, 'Come on up. Use the red rope.' Jeff Lakes [one of the climbers who died decided to go for it, but I just sat there and looked at these dots ahead on the traverse. I was amazed, because Alison was calling down as cloud drifted across her face. I could only see her intermittently."

When he reached Base Camp at 22,000 feet at 7.30pm and was told the other climbers had reached the summit an hour earlier, he recalled saying: "Oh, my God." He added: "When you are on a summit

over 8,000 metres and it's dark. it's like being in space with no way back. I knew they were in for a bad time. They would either die or bivouac up there and lose their legs to the cold."

Some of the climbers who came back blamed Alison's fierce determination for driving the others to their deaths. "No one wanted to he the first to give up," said Matt Comeskey. a New Zealander who survived.

Since her death, recordings have come to light which show that Alison had become disillusioned with climbing and was considering stopping. There have been claims that her marriage to Jim Ballard was in dif-ficulties. However the one common strand in interviews with those who knew her, who shared hardships and triumphs on mountains and in freezing tents, was their astonishment at the amount of time Alison spent talking about her children, Tom. six, and Kate, four. If she was thinking of giving up climbing, and the impression is that she was, then most of those who climbed with her believe it

would have been for them.



Emotion, abortion and tragedy

The brief life of Siamese twins crystallised a debate over the sanctity of life, says Polly Toynbee

It seemed like a time warp: gious belief in the right of that suddenly the ethics of aborchild to be born, he puts that ment between two pressmen: Dominic Lawson, now editor of the Sunday Telegraph, and Ian Hargreaves, former editor of this newspaper. Both fathered babies suffering severe abnor-

malities. They approached the calamity in quite different ways. This would have been simply a private family matter, no more than a sad human interest story, had Lawson not turned the birth of his Down's syndrome daughter into a political issue. He turned the moving description of his experience into an emotional tirade against modern screening, with its con-comitant offer of abortion to parents of abnormal foetuses who choose it. He called it "half-baked eugenics"... and compared this to Chinese infanticide and Hitler's extermina-

tion of the mentally deficient. He described how he and his deeply Catholic wife, Rosa Monckton, had decided not to opt for a screening test: since they would have rejected abortion anyway, there was not much point. After the birth one or two people unwisely asked if they had taken the tests. "My wife says she thinks it will be difficult to remain friends with such people, he wrote, and deplored the state-sponsored annihilation of the state of the would encourage her to have a termination. Had he said this to the Astburys? No.

I wrote an article expressing of viable sentient foetuses". His article, originally in the Specta-tor, received accolades in the

Daily Mail and Daily Telegraph. In the other corner, by grot-esque coincidence, Ian Har-greaves and his wife, Adele Blakeborough, a Baptist minis-ter, found themselves in a sim-ilar predicament. They had decided to have the tests. They revealed a yet more severe abnormality in their unborn child: Patau's syndrome. Doc-tors told them that were their daughter to be born she would probably not survive longer than a mouth. They opted for abortion. Hargreaves also wrote a long and moving account of their experience, in the Sunday Telegraph. Gently, he took issue with Lawson: "In attacking doctors and politicians, I felt you were also making a moral judgement on parents who have faced similar choices and made

a different decision." Lawson's anti-abortion argu-ments were, as one would expect, some of the most cogent and rational to be expressed in what is usually a sentimental and emotional approach to the subject by people of his persuasion. He made mincemeat of the argument that suggests it is somehow better for the child not to be born, since it is always any handicapped person. But to bring them into the world are because he has a virtually reli-different issues.

tion were back on the agenda above the right of parents not this year, although the princi- to carry a pregnancy to term. ples of abortion and embryol- Those of us who strongly sup-ogy have long been entreached port abortion on demand do so in law. A number of events and on the grounds that the cases involving unborn babies mother's right over her body crystallised into a stark argu-supersedes the putative child's

rights.
Outsiders mainly stood by on the sidelines. There was such a strong sense in Lawson's argument of rationalising tragedy, looking for good in the face of calamity. He wrote of his love for his baby, his happiness at her existence. Others shook their heads and thought of the troubles ahead, in adolescence and adulthood. (Though for the bet-ter-off, the dreadful dilemmas of caring for the handicapped later in life are less pressing.)

The other event that raised these issues was the birth of Siamese twins to Melanie and Brian Astbury. Shortly before the birth, they sold their story exclusively to the Daily Mail, which hailed them as heroes for carrying through a pregnancy fraught with danger and almost

certain tragedy.
When I talked to their obstetrician, I gained the impression that they had not had the true dimensions of what faced them spelt out clearly and forcefully enough. I asked the doctor if he would urge his wife to continue with the pregnancy in these circumstances: he said he would

concern that often doctors and nurses give neutral information, instead of stressing the hardships ahead in these situations. I was deluged with angry letters from the anti-abortion lobby, and Lynda Lee-Potter, defending the Mail's exclusive, launched her own offensive, twice. I also had many letters from medical staff confirming that they were intimidated out of advocating abortion strongly enough, for fear of the wrath of Catholic colleagues.

Tragically the Astbury twins, joined at the abdomen and with tangled internal organs, died a while later of a sudden infection, one 20 minutes before the other, having been photographed exclusively in the Mail. A brief article confirmed that the Astburys "had no regrets", and then the Astburys were forgotten.

For as long as the argument

continues, there is a danger that many parents will be per-suaded in a sentimental flurry of determination, to carry on with pregnancies of handi-capped children, without understanding quite what this will do to their lives later. Some handicapped groups regard this as some kind of genocide, but it is nothing of the sort. Theat-ing the disabled well once they are been and mothers' decisions better to be than not to be -ask are born and mothers' decisions





The sacrifice we should never forget

Could we fall silent in remembrance? Not exactly. But **Paul Vallely** found an inner quiet

It has been a year of remembering. Or of attempting to. It was 50 years since the end of World War Two and no one was quite sure whether modern Britain was up to the task of paying dignified respects.

Would the younger generation

write the whole thing off as history? In an attempt to forestall that, every secondary school in England was sent a government pack on VE Day and the Holocaust Educational Trust. a privately funded body, supplied every comprehensive with a version of the film Schindler's List.

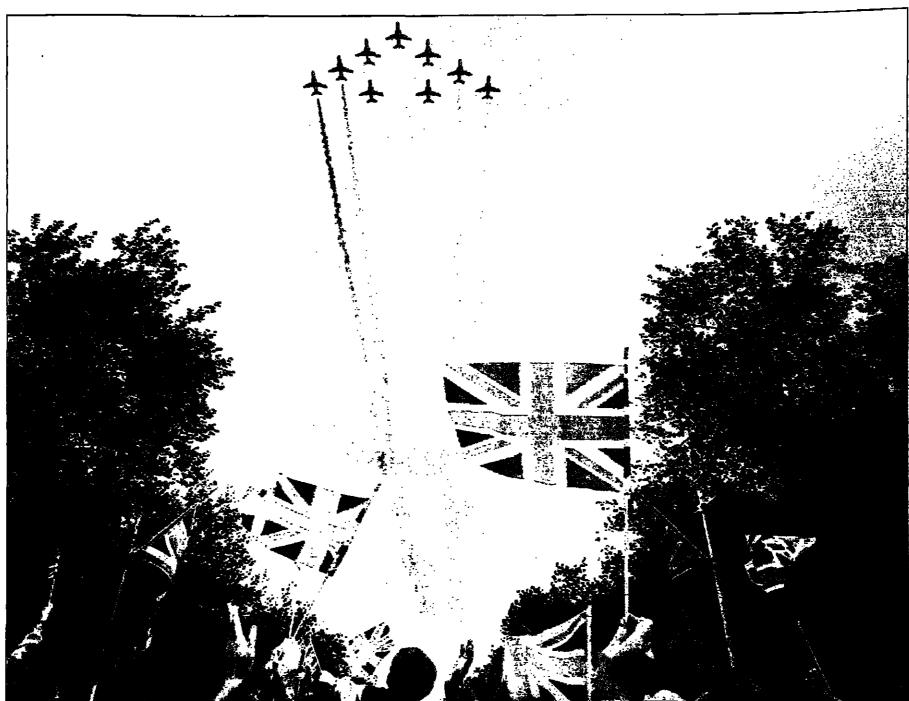
In the event, pupils, sent out to interview their grandparents, were strangely moved by the experience.
It had been touch and go. The year before, the commemoration of D-Day was dogged by rows between those who wanted to mourn and those who wanted to celebrate. The Government did its best to misjudge the mood with the VE Day weekend, with plans for a concert at Wembley with Vera Lynn; a Portsmouth event called "Brylcreem, bullets and

bunting"; and a chain of beacons

being lit by the Queen in Hyde Park. But in the end it was all rather different. A hush descended upon the nation in the two minutes before the Queen put the torch to the fire of remembrance. That evening in May, guests at smart dinner parties in Islington, climbers on Dartmoor's granite Haytor Rock, bus drivers in Bristol, bingo-players in Glasgow and the crowd at Blackburn Rovers' Ewood Park football ground all fell

It was as if, for one moment, the entire nation bowed its head as it remembered the sacrifice made by the fathers and grandfathers of those who survived.

It was an instant plucked from the rush of modern life in which something more enduring could be glimpsed. Those who could not recollect none the less held the present in abeyance - for that moment - in homage to those who were unable to savour our brave new world.



Flypast for victory: fears that a younger generation would feel nothing but indifference 50 years after VE Day were not borne out

By contrast, VJ Day in August, to mark the 50th anniversary of victory over Japan, was a time for those who could not forget. The memorial to the end of the war in the Far East was a particularly difficult time for former prisoners of war because of the mental and physical abuse they suffered at the hands of a nation which, unlike the Germans, refused to make a

proper apology. In the Japanese they still had an enemy; the rest of us could only look on silently, in uncomprehending solidarity with their pain.

There were those, of course, for whom all this was not enough. The British Legion tried to revive the custom of marking two minutes' silence on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month - the anniversary of the armistice that brought the end of the First World

It was a custom which fell in desuctude when the Second World War began. The attempt to revive it provoked a mixed response, although a novel about that war won the Booker prize, evidence of its endur-

Hopes that Britain would fall into a respectful silence went unfulfilled. The BBC carried on broadcasting. Many shops and businesses that had pledged to cease trading for two minutes forgot. When one cab driver tried to stop near Oxford Circus,

other cabbies blasted their horns. Yet in many parts of the country there was a moment of quiet and shoppers stood still at 11am.

respect, which those who took part in will recall. In Wiltshire, the Prince

of Wales, who was riding out with the Beaufort Hunt, brought his horse to a standstill to pay his tribute with 300 other riders. At the Lakeside shopping centre in Thurrock, Essex, Christmas tree lights and fountains were switched off and thousands of

A modern vision of heaven and hell

Any society needs an enemy, and while Brussels, the Bosnian Serbs and foreigners at large did a decent job for many people, 1995 was the year when drugs became Public Enemy No 1. The face of Leah Betts beamed out from hoardings next to the single word "sorted" (in the language of the rave, it meant she had enough drugs). Leah Betts was the sacrificial lamb who died, the "little ship", in her father's pathetic words, wrecked by violent seas.

But every society also needs a god, a heaven and a promised land, and the odd thing about this year was that drugs fulfilled those roles, too. Drugs meant hope of health, of longer life, of freedom from pain. Against such diseases as Aids, cancer, multiple sclerosis, drugs offered hope of victory. And this was a year in which advances were made in combating all those diseases.

What is alarming is how we are able to hold two such divergent views of drugs in our minds. It is like having clearly defined concepts of heaven and hell - but only one word for

This year has brought home to us the degree to which drugs have permeated teenage culture. Successive reports showed how, for example, cannabis use has doubled in 10 years and the number of cannabis users convicted has nearly tripled; how addicts of hard drugs have increased by 20 per cent in a year. One survey suggested that in the near future it will be those adolescents that decline to buy drugs who will be considered deviant.

The trend was unmistakable and posed serious questions for every parent - the most urgent being: how to protect our chil-dren? Besides keeping them locked up 24 hours a day, there were no obvious answers. Since Jim Callaghan's Dangerous Drugs Act of 1971, governments have pursued the goal of suppressing all dangerous drugs through policing, propaganda and official rhetoric. This year's statistics prove that the policy has failed. Is it not time to try something new?

When, in September, Clare

Drugs are both demons and wonder cures. Why are we so confused by them today? **Peter Popham**

obliged her to shut up. We have a stunning ability to keep our feelings about drugs locked in hermetically sealed containers in our brains. In an article earlier this month in the Sun, the television comic Joe Longthorne "sensationally confessed" to rampant abuse of heroin, LSD, Ecstasy and the tranquilliser Temazepam. His biographer recounted all the coke-laced joints, the pills and

reports

booze the comedian had got through. Casually, it was also mentioned that Longthorne had "recently won a six-year battle against a rare form of blood cancer" in the treatment of which presumably drugs had played a significant role. Yet despite the powerful urge to keep good and evil drugs corrailed apart, this year has seen increasing signs of leaching between the two. Administered by a doctor, Temazepam is a common tranquilliser, bought on the streets of Glasgow, "jellies" were blamed for leading to memory loss, blackouts, vio-lent behaviour and "numerous deaths". The two substances are the same. Cannabis, Clare Short discovered, is far too evil to be discussed in the House of Commons; but many multiple sclerosis sufferers have found it a paucity of information. relieves their symptoms. A former Army captain from Tun-bridge Wells, diagnosed as hav-

ing MS in 1989, said he smoked it every day. "Cannabis is not a cure," he said, "it's a management tool which helps to improve my quality of life." We demand to draw a line, to be told plainly when drugs are drug." Recognising that truth. evil and when they are good. our role should be to act as sen-

1995, even this test has proved fallible. One of their number, Dr Clive Froggatt, an architect of the NHS reforms, was convicted of supplying heroin illegally, and confessed to being a junkie himself. After Leah Betts's collapse, a reporter on a national paper went to a rave; the Ecstasy-popping ravers he interviewed turned out to be doctors,

too.
We deserve to be confused: our simple-mindedness invites it. Breathlessly, the press reports the success of a "growth hormone wonder drug" in giv-ing a man aged 60 the "stamina, energy and sex drive" of a 30year-old. But when an 18-yearold desires a far more modest alteration of reality - to stay awake all night, feeling good we cannot condemn too fast.

What is being played out is the modern form of the ancient struggle between the genera-tions. Since the mid-Sixties teenagers have identified themselves by the drugs they prefer: it is one of the ways in which they slither out of their elders' embrace. Inevitably, it incurs adults' fear and anger, for that is part of the game.

Meanwhile, the middle-aged have their own game to play: keeping the woes of mortality at bay as long as possible. And as the middle-aged control the media, it is no surprise which impulse gets the better press. It is time we, and our politicians in particular, grew up. The reason we fear for our children's lives is not because they are taking drugs per se, but because the quality of the drugs they are taking is uncontrolled. God knows what they are ingesting. Leah Betts died not from Ecstasy but from an overdose of water; indirectly, she died from

We need to recognise that we are living not in a world of good and evil drugs but in an environment saturated by chemicals of every description. Dr Hamish Cameron, head of medical affairs for the drug manufacturer Zeneca, says: "There is no such thing as a safe When, in September, Clare Perhaps the simplest test is stive guides. That way many Short posed that question with regard to cannabis, Tony Blair a dealer or by a doctor -- but in saved from wreck.

It was the year that childhood as we thought we knew it finally died. But can we be so sure?

The Rev Peter Foster rem-embers how, overnight, the children vanished from the streets of Eastham, on Merseyside, after Robert Gee, 12, and Paul Barker, 13, were victims of a knife attack while fishing at a local pond. "There was such a terrific sense of shock," recalls Mr Foster, "the streets emptied." He led the joint funeral for the boys - who had been best friends for most of their short lives.

Six months after the murders, the children's parents face an agonising start to the new year. That the flow of donations to a memorial appeal which now exceeds £20,000 continues to be steady suggests their neighbours have not forgotten their pain or loss.

"The children are out again," says Mr Foster. "But when you speak to their parents you realise that beneath the surface

the fear is still there." As 500 people filed into St David's United Reform Church for the boys funeral in July. police were already hunting the killer of Sophie Hook, 7 who was snatched from a tent in her aunt and uncle's garden in Llandudno, North Wales. Sophie, who was strangled, was abducted just a day after the

killings on Merseyside. Camping and fishing: two innocent childhood pursuits whose very ordinariness seemed to imbue public outrage at the murders with a sense of heinous violation. The summer of 1995 will go down in the record books for its high temperatures. But for many it will be the time when the death of childhood was finally confirmed.

Four other children met violent deaths that summer. In August, Louise Sellars, 15, was strangled on farmland near Wigan, Greater Manchester, and the body of Darren Fawns was discovered on a golf course near Loch Neagh in Northern Ireland. The following mouth, Rachel Lean was stabbed to death near her home in Buxton. Norfolk, and Naomi Smith, 15, was found with her throat cut in a park 100 yards from her home in Nuneaton. Warwickshire. Naomi had gone out returned.

The number of children killed by strangers in 1995 will probably not exceed previous vears. At six or seven a vear it is still, thankfully, a rare crime. But Home Office statistics do nothing to comfort parents. Surveys show that the majority agree with Mr Foster that his own childhood was safer than



that of his own three children. Last year a MORI survey found that more than 90 per cent of parents believed their children would see more crime and vio-

ience than they had. Parents rate abduction and issault as their greatest fear for their children. And there are warnings that parental anxiety is seriously restricting children's lives. According to a Policy Studies Institute survey, 80 per cent of seven- and eight-year-olds went to school on their own in 1971; only 9 per cent were doing so 20

years later. Peter Wilson, director of the charity Young Minds, says 1995 has exposed the dichotomy inherent in modern childhood; "On the one hand, there is probably a greater awareness of the importance of childhood than there has been for some time. But on the other hand. the murders and abuse continue. I think adults are more anxious about their own lives and they are taking it out on children."

But he agrees that it was the children who survived in 1995 who brought the weakness of the young into sharpest focus. The most chilling testimony to the vulnerability of modern children came at Winchester Crown Court when Anne-Marie West's harrowing evidence laid bare the violence perpetrated by her parents.

Mary Braid



Warm enough for you? Er, quite. John Walsh loved it. There was smog, sweat, and pavements full of flushed diners...

The red hot summer

Summer started in Onford on May morning, with foolish revellers jumping into the Cherwell and gamine classics students drinking lager-top in pubs at 5.45am. It settled in, all cloudless skies and still air, in late May, started to bake with a vengeance around the second week in June, took a couple of days off for experiments with wind, rain and hail, then came on like the Sheltering Sky for July and August. Weeks and weeks of it. "It's the ozone layer," we told each other. "The warnings were all true. We're all, you know, doomed." Sometimes it was a gentie, zephyr-borne heat, little pockets of warmth that burrowed in the folds and crannies of your shirt. Sometimes, when lying on your back at lunchtime beside the Canary Wharffountain, it seemed to want to roast you with an angry, spiced malevolence, like an uitra-violet vindaloo.

Streets and gardens are what we will remember about the summer of .95. Of course, London has tried the al fresco thing before, unpteen times, but wanly, tentatively (the Argyll restaurant in Chelsea, now sadly closed down, introthiced a tables-in-the-doorway facility, half on the pavement, for those unable to make the full commitment). But suddenly, it came together. Round shiny tables and squat basket-weave chairs blocked your path on every high street from Ealing to Cockfosters. Opportunistic bairdressers encouraged waiting clients to sit at tables outside with their copies of *Harpers & Queen* and bottles of Ballygowan. Old Compton Street in Soho spilled over with knowing dudes in skinny yests, cruising the boys from Berlin and Copenhagen as they strolled up and down.

The whole Old Compton strip was upper windows filled with browsing sters drinking Czech Budweiser from the bottle. No one, it seemed, went to bed (except for sex), preferring the hot street. The streets of London disappeared beneath an onslaught of furniture. Calling for hunch with a pub-lisher friend in June, I was led down three alleyways off Oxford Street and found myself in Al Fresco City - the whole of James Street had become a row of white tablecloths and expansive

tana suit has probably still got some

twig or spray of blossom inside it, from the number of occasions you stood beneath the oak or the flowering cherry in someone's bosky backyard in Infinell Park, listening to Sheryl Crow singing "Leavin' Las Vegas". Dining is impos-sible in gardens, hence the parodic bar-berning of (pre-scare) by years for becuing of (pre-scare) burgers for langhing gournets to consume with parodic relish. Gardens, having no rooms, define a party better than a you, on this suburban sward, like it or

across the camomile lawns to talk to whuffling brigadiers and charity-work Stakhanovites. The Queen wore light blue, as did the whole sky, and cohorts of newspaper and television executives (I went on "Media Day") shuffled after her, pretending they were doing something more than stare. It was a still day -royal heat is different from com-moner heat - and we drifted around the Buck House pond with amazing slow-ness, trailing languid cumuli of Mari-boro Lights. Seventeen shades of pastel pink and puce flickered to and fro. Denis and Edna Healey executed a modest cha-cha-cha outside the

refreshment tent as the band played

"The Floral Dance".

We drove around with the sunroof open, playing Bryan Adams's "Summer of 69" at transmission-seizing volume. Male shorts, so naff and so laughably British, became quite comme il faut. White knickers under white dresses were visible on Tube escalators, as the flesh above and below them turned from alabaster to burnt sienna. Everybody went on pilgrimage to Wembley to see a quintet of short grandfatherly coves called the Stones. The grass at home turned a weedy lime colour, then white, then a urmous orange. At night, we stood under the trellis of honeysuckie, nursing a Famous Grouse with crushed ice, and listened to the random blares and hoots of midsummer in south London, wondering if it was a party to which the rest of the metrop-olis had been invited, but not caring. Just as well we were not going abroad we said, when all the combined heat gestures. It could have been Naples. and smell of Europe seemed gathered Garden parties flourished. The in London And on 5 July, the baby was and smell of Europe seemed gathered breast pocket of your lightweight Mon-born and summer nights were never the



We've made peace across the frontline

For years, Nichola, an east Beifast Protestant, and Joanne, a west Belfast Catholic, would see each other's faces regularly but they never spoke. They would see each other in the waiting-rooms of the Crumlin Road and Maze prisons as they queued to visit their husbands.

Nichola's husband was serving a sentence for a loyalist guns offence; Joanne's hus-band was inside for an IRA bombing. The men left on the outside two women with problems: when they first saw each other, Joanne had three children, while Nichola had two and another on the way. Now Joanne says, "All those

years we never spoke, just looked at each other, up and down. We just kept outself to ourself." Today, with peace, they have become friends, working together in a prison welfare organisation.
They sit together side by

side, giggling about the old days when they would share the same room but never speak. Now they have broken two barriers: they not only talk together in the most friendly way, but they ignore the old regulation that you do not talk about politics or the troubles. except in the company of "your.

own side". In terms of many of their attitudes, they are still on dif-ferent sides but, most unusually for Belfast, they have found the knack of preventing their disagreements from escalating into conflict. (This is still Belfast, and they are nervous about having their names used

in a newspaper.)

They differ about whether the peace will hold. Nichola, the Protestant, does not believe loyalist groups will return to wolence unless the IRA does. She has, however, the impression, from the statements of Gerry Adams and others, that the republican side may be less

solidly for the peace. She says: "I think the republican side is shaky at the moment; I think it's going to break and there will be violence again. There's an awful lot on the loyalist side who will start up again, too, once it does break, because there are lots of peo-

David McKittrick meets two

Belfast women who overcame old enmities to become friends ple still bitter about things that

have happened." Joanne comes from a stalwart republican family; her father was jailed in earlier years and she is much more overtly political, and articulate, than Nichola. Her view is different and she expresses it with much moré confidence: "No, I don't think Sinn Fein and the IRA

are prepared to go back to vio-

lence again.
"I don't think they can afford to do that, because if the ceasefire breaks now they're not going to get the support and the trust that they had in the past, because people are used to this wee bit of peace. I'm sure there are some people who would be prepared to go back, but I think most would say they're not prepared to do so. It's not fair - you can't expect us to go back to living like that again,

you just can't.
"I trust Genry Adams, and I
believe he and Sinn Fein don't want to do it either. We knew from the start the ceasefire was for good, that the war was over for good. I don't think they'll ever go back to armed struggle again; I think it will just go on in politics unless, like, the British government really force

Nichola has no time for lov-Nichola has no time for loy-alist groups and is anxious to keep her 14-year-old son away from them. The been through enough in my life. I just shun these organisations; I don't want to know anything about them, I'm anti. I just want to keep my son out of trouble. His friends all write slogans on their schoolbooks, but if I caught him writing anything like that I'd xill him. He knows

The two women also hold surrender.

contrasting views on the arms decommissioning issue. "No," says Joanne, "I don't think they should hand over weapons until they're 100 per cent sure that they're going to get something out of it. They didn't fight all those years for nothing. I think if it's genuinely over then they should be handed in, if they're serious - both sides. But sure at the moment they're not even sitting round the table to talk about it. If they hand over all their weapons now, what else have we got to fight with? I mean there's always the threat there, we'd still have our

They differ, too, on the prisoners' issue. Joanne, whose husband has another three years to serve, wants the jail doors opened. She argues: What's the big deal about keeping the prisoners in nowthey can no longer do anything; the war's over."
Nichola, whose husband has

just been released, is not so sure. "But what about the victims?" Joanne touches her arm:
"Well yes, I understand, don't get me wrong. I understand, but there have been victims on both sides. You have to ask, are you going to keep going on and on? You must show that it's got to stop somewhere - keeping the prisoners in will only keep

it going."
Nichola replies: "I can understand your personal feelings and all that - there's nothing worse when they're locked up in there and people say, what about the victims, they can't get up out of their graves, they have no life'."
"But," Joanne continues

intently, "what I'm saying is that Nichola replies: "Catholic families might be raging to see loyalist prisoners being let out, somebody who has shot their husband. But I understand. Something has to be done somewhere. After so long, I

think we deserve peace." And they nod their heads together, not in agreement but in mutual respect and liking. These two women, from very different traditions, bave learnt the hard way that agreeing to differ is not the same as

Major, Heseltine, Redwood 6 Portillo, leader writers 0

It was the gamble of the year - and it paid off. Donald Macintyre reports

Because it didn't change the world, bit is all too easy to underestimate the gamble John Major took in June by resigning the Tory leadership and inviting allcomers to challenge him for his job. He certainly thought he might lose; indeed, he took some care to persuade those closest to him that this might be the outcome. But he didn't, and six months on, it is rather easier than it was then to identify the gainers and losers from the most important domestic political event of 1995.

John Major may not have transformed his personal - or for that matter his party's - poll rating, but the ben-efits he reaped from victory are tangible: consider first what might have happened if he had not precipitated a contest. The whips' office appeared to have lost a grip: virtually the only topic of chatter among MPs was the prospect of a contest. Worst of all, Westminster was rife with rumour that Norman Lamont would announce before autumn that he intended to challenge Major for the leadership in November. thus ensuring more bedlam at the October Tory party conference than at any time since 1963 when Hailsham,

Butler and Home were jockeying for the succession to Macmillan. Secondly, he made his own luck; by failing to tell John Redwood personally that he had decided to resign the leadership, he gave Redwood an excuse to challenge him - paradoxically a better outcome than if Lamont had taken him on as a "stalking horse". A sizeable vote for Lamont, not to mention simple abstentions, would have counted exclusively as a protest against Major. The campaign by Redwood, who had been in the Cabinet, meant a real contest. Many of the 89 votes for Redwood

could be depicted as positive for him rather than negative for Major. Finally, while a leadership contest in 1996 is still theoretically possible, all probability is against. If nothing else, by securing a comfortable first-ballot margin under the rules, Major had reminded his party that he is rather good at winning elections.

This is one reason why John Redwood was also a gainer. Long the junior partner to Michael Portillo as a government Euro-sceptic, the former Welsh Secretary spectacularly demonstrated his political instincts by resigning his Cabinet soat and challenging for
the leadership. After a shaky if exciting start in which the more eccentric of



Mind your back: the Prime Minister resigns in No 10's back yard

the hard-line Euro-sceptics like Teresa Gorman and Tony Marlow appeared on the platform at Redwood's first press conference, Redwood fought a workmanlike if unglamorous campaign. The result, with a significantly higher personal vote than most MPs expected, put him at the head of the party's backbench right wing, and helped indirectly to generate the funds to establish his own personal think-tank Conservative 2,000. It leaves him in position for after the general election as a serious leadership contender or at the very least, a key player in a post Major shadow

Michael Heseltine must also count among the gainers. There wasn't a second ballot; he was denied the most glittering prize of all. But Heseltine cer-tainly got the next best thing. The question of whether there was a "deal" in which Heseltine called off his troops and delivered Major his victory in return for the deputy premiership will continue to preoccupy MPs. Certainly, polling of former Tory voters suggests that it is a widely held perception in the electorate that Major's victory book, Too Close to Call, two key Major insiders adamantly deny there was any deal. At the very least the "deal" explanation is simplistic [see below]. It is hard to see Heseltine sacrificing a burning ambition sustained since he was a student at Oxford in return for the second prize; nevertheless, he emerged from the contest with real power - and undisputed status as the front-running If John Major Was Run Over By a Bus Before the Election candidate. The deputy premiership was first floated by Major with Heseltine in May. Discussing it with a colleague shortly afterwards, Heseltine remarked that he cortainly wasn't going to be "like Geoffrey

Howe" - a deputy in name and noth-

ing else. He isn't. Among the losers, Michael Portillo must rate pretty high; firstly, Redwood looked the more dashing of the two by resigning and fighting. Secondly, his judgement looked suspect for allowing a group - in which David Hart, his somewhat Mephistophelean adviser, appears to have been prominent - to install telephones in a "safe house" from which Portillo would have fought a second ballot campaign for the leadership if there had been one (all the while, he was professing undying loyalty to John Major). Thirdly, he allowed himself

over lunch with two BBC journalists to give rise to a story that he could well be Prime Minister by September.

Portillo, therefore, did not have a good war, but don't write him off. He remains the most charismatic figure on the Tory right, despite all Redwood's well-founded claims to right-wing candidacy for the leadership, and not to mention his own ill-judged "Who dares wins" speech to the Tory conference later in the year.

Political journalism was a bit of a loser, too. It wasn't only newspapers who came out against Major (most of the Tory press apart from the Express titles) and predicted, as well as prescribed his demice. Political agree scribed, his demise. Political correspondents in general became so caught up in the excitement of the threat to Major's premiership that they failed to listen to one or two of the still small voices. There was one passionately pro-Heseltine MP, for example, who predicted there wouldn't be a second ballot and that Major would win decisively in the first.

All of this poses the biggest question of all: did Major win against Redwood because the party is in the end still dominated by the centre and left - and didn't want a right winger? Or did he win (and this seems on balance a good deal more likely) for precisely the opposite reason - the party has swung to the right and those that wanted Heseltine as Prime Minister dared not precipitate a second ballot by abstain-

ing because they might wind up with Michael Portillo instead? Certainly, some more assute MPs the pro-Heseltine voice, for example had pointed out that many of the core Heseltine supporters in the 1990 lead-ership contest had subsequently left Parliament and that a Heseltine victory in the second ballot was by no means a foregone conclusion. The Major camp was adept at warning potential pro-Portillo abstainers that they might wind up with Heseltine if there was a second ballot, but they also persuaded a good many pro-Heseltine MPs that they could get Portillo - or Redwood - if

there was a second ballot. The fact is that the abstentions which might have narrowed Major's victory margin to the point that a second ballot would have been required never happened. Neither camp was ready to risk the all-out civil war that now seems inevitable after the general

We have seen the enemy and it is us

Yigal Amir's arm stretches out and there is a jet of flame from his hand directed at Yitzhak Rabin's back. The prime minister's bodyguards begin to turn, but it is too late. On the roof of the shopping centre behind Tel Aviv town hall Roni Kempler, an amateur with a video camera, records the moment when Mr Rabin is mortally wounded, an instant that may well shape Israeli polities for the rest of the century.

In one sense, the film shows nothing new. There is no second gunman. Amir acts very much as he himself had demonstrated during a staged reenactment of the assassination a few weeks ago. After waiting nonchalantly at the bottom of the steps down which he knew Mr Rabin must walk at the end of a peace rally, he simply circled behind the prime minister and fired.

But in a broader sense, Kempler's film explains exactly why Mr Rabin died. No Arab would have been able to dawdle close to where the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister were about to pass without being immediately arrested. Yet there is Yigal Amir in his blue T-shirt (his only gesture at disguise was to remove his black skull cap). allowed to wait for his victim without being asked a single question about his presence.

In the immediate aftermath of the assassination, defenders of the Shin Bet security agency explained its failure by saying that members had internalised the belief that a Jew would not kill a Jew. There is probably some truth in this, though the belief that national homogeneity in Israel is significantly greater than in other countries has been disproved repeatedly since the foundation of the state.

In 1948. Rabin himself had been in command of forces that attacked and sank the arms ship Altalena, chartered by the right-wing leader Menachem Begin to bring in weapons. To a degree that non-Israelis selThe assassination of Yitzhak Rabin exposed the deep divisions within Israeli society. Patrick Cockburn assesses the significance of his death



Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres greet the crowd at the peace rally of 4 November, moments before Rabin's murder

between religious and nonreligious Jews. Surveys show that 19 per cent of Jews in the country go to synagogue every day and a similar number never go at all.

It is this religious division that is at the heart of differences between left and right. It has fed the venomous opposition to the Oslo accords, under which Israel is making a partial withdrawal from the West Bank dom realise, the politics of withdrawal from the West Bank Israel is driven by the friction and Gaza. To Yigal Amir and

the religious right, this is aban-doning land that God gave to the Jews. Months before he killed Mr Rabin, senior rabbis called on soldiers to mutiny rather than obey orders to dismantle military bases on the West Bank.

To many Israelis and much of the outside world, these tensions seemed marginal. The rise of the religious right after the Israeli conquest of the West Bank in 1967 had passed

How much has changed largely unnoticed. Few cared since Mr Rabin died on 4 that the mainstream religious establishment in Israel had November? In the weeks after become extreme. A quarter of the assassination there was a rush to the political centre. the population goes to religious Evidence of unity was publischools. Under the so-called cised and exaggerated. It was said that between 850,000 and hesder programme, students from religious colleges do their one million Israelis – a large military service together with part of the population - had their rabbis. Given the norms walked past Rabin's coffin as it of the world in which Yigal lay in front of the Knesset. Amir lived, killing the prime though witnesses put the real number at well under 100,000. minister might well seem a

Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the right-wing Likud party, even described it as natural and understandable that Yasser Arafat should make his first known visit to Tel Aviv to offer condolences to Mrs Rabin.

The amiability did not last. Soon after the murder, mainstream rabbis happily shared platforms with those suspected of approving the assassination. Rabbinical denunciations of the murder were less than

wholehearted. Many Labour party supporters believed that the settlers on the West Bank, the religious right and opposi-tion to the Oslo accords were permanently discredited. This is probably wishful thinking, or at least exaggerated. Polls show that few Israelis have changed their political opinions and the Labour party will be pushed to win a majority in the general election next year.

Yet the changes in Israeli political culture are fundamental. Previously, the agenda of Israeli society was set by perception of an external threat, real or exaggerated. A survey of the Israeli press since the foun-dation of the state shows that more than 80 per cent of the headlines have dealt with national security issues. It is a view of Israel to which the leaders of Shin Bet and Mr Rabin's personal bodyguards appear to have subscribed. The solitary waiting figure of Yigal Amir, an Israeli and a Jew, simply could not be an assassin.

The assassination also had a direct political impact. It occurred on the eve of the Israeli pull-out from the main towns of the West Bank. In istances, this would have led to mass demonstra-tions by the settlers and the religious right. They would have been supported by Likud under Netanyahu, claiming a sell-out by Rabin and Shimon Peres,

the foreign minister.
Instead, Israeli forces slid out of their headquarters in Palestinian towns such as Jenin and Nablus with scarcely a murmur of protest in Israel. Opponents

of withdrawal could do nothing.
The patriotic card, exploited
by Netanyahu or anyone else, may not be played as successfully in Israel in future as it has in the past. Cynics argue that the exaggerated emotion immediately after Rabin died has turned a tragedy into kitsch. But the images of the murder have burnt permanently into the minds of many Israelis that the threat from within is as dan-

Brent how we all lost

Nicholas Schoon spent three days on the oil rig with

Greenpeace protesters. He left convinced they were in the wrong. He was right

Shell and Greenpeace's war over the Brent Spar was thrilling, titanic and very frus-trating. Yet in the end, the public were probably more misled

than enlightened.

Its significance lay in the fact that it had little to do with party politics and international diplo-macy and everything to do with late 20th-century forces: global electronic media, international branding and single-issue cam-paigning. In Brent Spar's case, they were forces of confusion.

The ferocity of what was essentially a public relations war, the images of the corroded Spar and the courage of the Greenpeace "action teams" made a huge, umnissable story. But most coverage failed to examine or explain the heart of

the matter.
It began with Shell persuading the British government that dumping the Brent Spar 7,000ft down in the Atlantic was the "best practicable environmental option". This piece of jargon, BPEO, means the disposal option which minimised damage to the environment, threats to workers' health and safety and disposal costs. The concept captures the most important factors and Shell was right - deep-sea dumping was the BPEO for the Spar, an oil tank containing a few dozen tonnes of oil, a few kilos of toxic heavy metals and a little low-level radiation.

Disposing of it on land was difficult, with much higher costs and extra risks of the structure breaking up and releasing con-taminants in inshore waters. Neither Greenpeace nor anyone else could demonstrate that deep-ocean disposal of the Spar posed a significant threat to the marine environment.

Greenpeace said sea disposal set a bad precedent. If the Gov-ernment allowed a rich oil company to dump the Spar at sea, how could the public be expected to take environmental protection seriously? Shell had to abandon sea dumping after a

nsumer boycoit in Germany. It is a superficially attractive but bad argument which treats the public like children. Decisions on waste disposal and recycling ought to balance economics and environmental pro-omics and environmental pro-tection. Greenpeace got away with sloppy thinking by por-traying Shell as the ugly face of big business—greedy, uncaring, and so wealthy that it should not

have to worry about money. Yet Greenpeace found itself victimised afterwards; it owned up to grossly overestimating the amount of crude oil inside the amount of crude ou mister the Spar. It had said there could be 5,500 tonnes, while Shell owned up to 53 tonnes. Independent analysis showed the oil company was nearly right. Across Europe, most media reported the Greenpeace confession in a way which the countries of the countries. uggested its entire Spar campaign had been a fraud, which

was mifair.

The Spar, now in a Norwe-gian fiord, will very likely be disposed of onshore by 1998. The idea that the campaign marked some great breakthrough for environmental politics received a grave setback later in the year in Mururoa Atoll, when Greenpeace failed to halt French nuclear explosions, and in Ogoniland where Shell's extraction of oil and gas has gone

So at the end of a year in which arguably green protest in Europe claimed its most signif-

Mladic, I presume

Standing in Bijeljina's central square on the eve of the holiest day in the Serbian Orthodox calendar, there was nothing in General Ratko Mladic's manner to indicate that he was soon to direct the murder of thousands of men.

It was 27 June, the night before the feast of the 4th-century martyr Saint Vitus, and exactly two weeks to the day before Bosnian Serb forces crushed the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica and began to execute its male population.

Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military commander, was in Bijeljina to celebrate the feast. I was there hoping to interview him. It was a crucial moment in the Bosnian conflict, full of expectations and portents.

Bosnia's mainly Muslim government had just failed to break the siege of Sarajevo with 15,000 men, a force that no one had believed it could muster so easily. The Serbs had managed to push back the Muslims, in some areas only just. Next time it might not he so easy.

A month before, the Serbs had taken hundreds of UN troops hostage, chaining some to ammunition dumps to ward off new Nato air raids. The gambit forced a stand-off, not just with Nato and the UN but with the Serbs backers in Belgrade, who sent their chief secret policeman to get Mladie to back down. All this had taken its toll, and the morale of the Bosnian Serb

army was said to be tock bottom. I thought the best way to gauge the future was to talk to the man responsible for setting the rhythm of the war. Normally he was unavailable as he was on the frontline. Only on occasions such as St Vitus Day did he come out to play. He was leaving a celebration of Serbian

(II)

Would you shake hands with the Serb general wanted tor war crimes? Robert Block did

culture when my chance came.
"General, this is Robert Block, the British journalist who named you 'Man of the Year'." With these words Lieutenant-Colonel Milovan Milutinovic, the Bosnian Serb army spokesman, introduced me to the warrior prince of the former Yugoslavia and the man suspected of being one of this century's most notorious war criminals.

A smile broke across the general's broad face and he took my hand in a grip as firm as his nationalist convictions. "I am honoured to meet you," he said, "but I am afraid you sent this accolade to the wrong address."

Never had the general spoken truer words. This "honour" he thought I had bestowed was not meant as a compliment. In an article for the Independent on Sunday I had stated that Ratko Mladic was a contender for the 1994 title not because of his virtues, but because of his ruthlessness and his horrifying success in calling the bluft of Nato's rubber-willed leaders.

I remember thinking how someone famous once warned against using irony with politicians: it will only anger them or be lost on them altogether. I was relieved Mladic fell into the latter category.

If I were expecting to see any sign of desperation in the man the Serbs call a living legend, I was mistaken. He stood before

me, oozing confidence, power and, dare I say it, charm. In photographs and from afar,

wearing his Napoleon-style cap and dress uniform, Mladic looked huge. But close up, he was of average height and build. Only his face was big, with blowtorch blue eyes. And when he spoke to me that night it was of peace, not war. "It's high time the weapons in this part of the world, and all over the world, were silenced. If it were in my power. I wouldn't let the word

For all his pretences at being a peacemonger, his plans were already well advanced to wipe out Srebrenica and the other Muslim enclaves. The only indication that something was afoot came in a speech he made just before I saw him: "The upcoming period ... can be decisive for the outcome of the war." Looking back. I wonder if he

war' be uttered in any language."

realises how prophetic he was. His onslaught against Srebrenica set in motion a chain of events that led to a Croatian drive which crushed Serbian rebels in the Krajina and retook huge areas of Serb-held territory in Bosnia. Having driven UN troops from the enclaves, Mladic lost his leverage over Nato. No longer hindered by the threat of hostages, the Allies unleashed unprecedented air attacks against the Serbs. In the end, he was sidelined and the Serbs forced to sue for peace.

None the less, one image haunts me. Two weeks after we met, he arrived in Srebrenica to comfort the conquered. The minute Serb cameras were turned off, Muslims were rounded up and executed, I cannot get past the memory of that right hand parting those children whose fathers Mladic later killed. It was the same hand that I shook.

THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O

Strikes and solidarity teach the French élite a lesson

The "unique selling point" an imminent pay freeze, escatated rapidly into a grass-roots the French presidency on 7 May was his promise to heal the country's social divisions. Little con he have more stand that the party had to disown it.

Gaullist RPR party to organise an anti-strike movement became such a political embarrassment that the party had to disown it. On the streets, meanwhile,

The "unique selling point" an imminent pay freeze, escalated rapidly into a grass-roots an anti-strike movement became such a political embarrassment that the party had to disown it.

On the streets, meanwhile, The result was a month of can he have suspected that this appealing slogan would, by the year's end, have been turned on its head, threatening to isolate the president and his men on the wrong side of the divide. When Chirac was campaign-

ing, what he had in mind was the glaring discrepancy between the haves and have-nots in Nineties France; the extent to which one section of the population seemed to be excluded from the mainstream of French life: the young unemployed, the second-generation immigrants on the housing estates, the urban poor. The perception that there were two distinct French populations worried the voters: it allowed Mr Chirac to hijack the traditional agenda of the left while presenting himself as the candidate of change, and

gave him victory. It was the wave of day-long strikes that preceded the election, however, that gave a foretaste of what was to come. "The one good thing about strikes," people said in anticipation, "is that the French become very solidaire." Indeed they do.

It took the all-out strike by the national railways and Paris local transport in November and December, coupled with intermittent strikes by the public utilities, to show the degree of that solidarite. For what began as a series of separate protests, linked by a very hazy idea about the government's proposed welfare reforms, and general public-sector fury about

was dangerously to the fore.

The scale of the protest was all the more unexpected because the government - in the person of the prime minister, Alain Juppé - had made what he considered were great efforts to "consult" before he announced his reforms. The people, how-ever, thought differently. The idea that France, with its

renowned high-speed trains, should be entirely without a national rail service for more than three weeks, and that a city the size of Paris (3.5 million people), should be without all its public transport for the same time, would have been inconocivable before it happened. When it did, though, people ral-lied round and refused to blame the strikers whose action was making life so inconvenient. An early attempt by Juppe's

People walked vast distances to work - and got lost because they were unused to navigating the capital. A river bus proved such a success that it may survive beyond the strike. Walking, cycling, roller-blading - any method of getting to work was An early flush of indignation by small shopkeepers was lost in the co-operative effort. The rush hour became rush hours to the point where the only times to drive in and out of Paris were at dead of night or between 11am and 3pm. The highway code was a dead letter and parking restric-tions were lifted; but drivers also

plete strangers included.

became strangely patient. Remarkably, until the strike was almost over, there was virtually no evidence of ill-feeling between strikers and non-strikers. The few buses that plied their routes were not picketed or stoned. Railwaymen who turned up for work as usual - but could not take the trains out - joined

Parisians at least were having large majority of the French something akin to a party. Givpopulation overcame Chirac's ing lifts and hitchhiking became 'social fractures" to band a way of life to the point where together, but against the goveven grandmothers thought ernment and especially against nothing of standing by the side of the road holding up a destin-Juppé. With his cool manner and his insistence that people ation sign. Drivers stopped as a had only to understand his logic matter of course. If you had thoughts of sitting quietly by yourself in a cafe reading the paper, you were disappointed. Communication became the order of the day, with everyone also compared to expense also compared to the compared to to accept it, the prime minister seemed to many the quintessence of an increasingly unpopular élite: the intellectual busi ness school graduate, incapable of communicating outside his talking to everyone else, comcharmed circle.

As the strike drew to its end, overtaken by a combination of government concessions, hard-ship among strikers and general fatigue, Juppé appeared on tele-vision looking haggard. He had held on to central elements of his welfare reform and he had held on to his job (just), but he looked a beaten and humbled man and he spoke of listening and of reconciliation.

Whether this was a change of image or substance mattered at that point less than the fact that such a change had been deemed necessary at all, and that a chink had been opened in the armour of the protected French élite.

The social fractures on which Chirac campaigned have not vanished; nor have they been healed. But they were briefly rel-egated to the sidelines as the French took a hard look at the people who govern them and decided to teach them a lesson.

Mary Dejevsky icant and powerful scalp, one was left asking what has changed and what has been learnt.

A DELIVERY MAN

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It was football's annus horribilis -112 months of bungs and backhanders, head-butting and kung fu kicking, coke addiction and taxidemolition. Yet the year's most significant moment came one day at the end of October when, out of the tunnel of a continuous continuous. tunnel of a stadium opened only weeks previously, trotted a 5ft 3in lad with a Stephen Hendry-sized skin problem, surrounded by minders, photographers and bemused policemen. The day Juninho, the small and perfectly talented Brazilian international, signed for Middlesbrough Football Club, the new cas of English Lawrence. era of English league football had

finally begun:
Middlesbrough made quite a performance of the signing. Juninho. played keepy-uppy on the pitch with his new manager, Bryan Robson: 3,000 fans filed into the main stand of the new Cellnet Riverside Sta- years; they were useful players who dium (many wearing sombreros); came cheap. But the Premier heroics in the World Cups of 1990 the world's press was invited along. League chairmen have started to and 1994 rather than his barren (and kept corralled in a pen a safe shop around picking up some of the years at Internazionale, were pre-

A small wonder among the bungs

A little Brazilian's arrival lifted the slur of sleaze from British football, says Jim White

distance from the main attraction). And the chib was right to put on such a show; to snap up the world's

best young player was a coup worth making a song and samba about. Since the Premier League was formed in 1993, concentrating the new money coming into the game into its upper tiers, the leading clubs in England have increasingly been able to afford fancy foreign players. Journeymen foreigners, cloggers and leather-lunged trundlers from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe had been a staple for a number of

sharper continental talents, such as pared to bolster his pension fund

Jurgen Klinsmann. Klinsmann was a godsend for Alan Sugar, Tottenham's chairman. The fans knew him as a class act, and his public relations skills would help the chairman to win over those dismayed by the recent power struggle between Sugar and Terry Venables, the former manager. Klinsmann, too, was grateful for the opportunity. Jaded by his time in Italy, he was delighted to rehabilitate himself against less sophisticated defences in England. Besides, these English-men, who remembered him for his

enormously. So he came to England, spent a year filling his boots with goals and money, and went home to Germany happy.

Over the summer of 1995, the Klinsmann route was followed by two major Dutch stars - Ruud Gullit and Dennis Bergkamp. Neither was quite the player he had been and neither was in the first flush of youth, but both served an important purpose for their clubs: they would sell expensive season tickets by the truckload. And, as it happened, both (until recent injuries) have given accomplished performances. Juninho is different. He is young, he is still learning his game and,

This was particularly so in Eng-

land, where the extreme reluc-

tance with which the governing body, the Rugby Football Union,

greeted earlier liberalisations of the amateur code incensed their

international players to the point of complete breakdown between

administrators and those they

ism has been inflicted (as some

at Twickenham see it) on the

game, the RFU is struggling to

come to terms with amateurs

running a professional game. Why else would the RFU's full

committee - the "57 old farts" of

Will Carling's notorious jibe -

resist the advice of its own com-

mission on professionalism to

give its executive a more busi-

ness-like feel by calling it the

Andrew, retired from inter-

national rugby, is under no such

constraints at Newcastle. He was

appointed by Sir John Hall not

to play a game but to do a job of work, which is what rugby at its

in 1995. The old went out when

board of management?

Now full-blown professional-

administered.

Bergkamp, he is a stranger to Britain, its language and its ways. Generally, players of his ilk go to Italian league clubs, tempted there by lorryloads of lire. But Juninho chose England. Not only that; he signed for a club without an international reputation, only just pro-

The story of how Bryan Robson came to circumvent precedent is as quaint as it is intriguing. He was alerted to the player long before anyone else in England by a Boro fan who, travelling in Brazil, happened to see him play and wrote to Robson to enthuse. Robson watched Juninho demolish England in a summer tour-

unlike Klinsmann, Gullit and nament, and then flew to Sao Paulo to talk to him. So thrilled was the young Brazilian by the interest shown by such a renowned figure as Rob-son, the former Manchester United and England captain, that he decided to sign for him on the spot. No one else, he said, as he was interviewed poring over an atlas looking for the English town with the funny name.

had shown such interest. It was not simply Robson's attentiveness. The money he brought with him - supplied by Steve Gibson. Boro chairman and a man happy to use his personal fortune to help his club gate-crash the big time matched anything that might have beardroom, 19 rich got happy.

In the end, though, the package of transfer fee and salary that landed Juninho worked out at less than Manchester United forked out for who got the better value.

It was typical of the recalcitrant insularity of some parts of the English footballing establishment that many predicted the slight youngster would not flower in Middlesbrough as he might have done in Italy. Too cold, too industrial, opposing defenders too hard was the consensus. As if it is warm in Turin in January. as if Sao Paulo is a bucolic paradise, as if Paulo Maldini is a softie.

But as Juninho struts his stuff in front of full houses in the grand new stadiums of the Premiership, it should not be taken as a metaphor for the overall health of the professional game. In the lower leagues, clubs such as Brighton and Hull face extinction. In football, as in the boardroom, 1995 was the year the

As Rob's kick fell to earth, amateurism went with it. By Steven Bale

Drop goal gorgeous

Rugby union's problem used to be articulating the justification Lto identify the second or so it for its amateurism to a wider took Rob Andrew's drop goal to go from boot to posts and so beat public used to professional sport.

> union just as much as England rugby.
> As it turned out, the World Cup quarter-final on that exquisite day in June was the zenith of England's World Cup achievement, the subsequent defeats in the semi-final by New Zealand and the third-place match by France marking the end for the last remnants of the old guard who had seen England through their most prosperous era.

Australia in Cape Town as a watershed for English rugby

And with the change in the team came the change in the game. Seventy-eight days after England had beaten Australia, rugby union turned professional. How appropriate, we might now say with hindsight, that it was Andrew who saw out the old, for he personifies the new. It was Andrew who was the hardestnosed players' negotiator when the England squad were ringing in the professional age; he has become the highest-paid of the new professionals.

It is curious to recall that the most exalted levels has become same hard-nosed Andrew, supposedly receiving £150,000 a Rob Andrew dropped for goal year as rugby development director of Newcastle United Sportas the player whom any woman would like as her son-in-law.

He can be said to have symbolised the best of amateurism at a time when every other boxoffice sport had long since and unashamedly embraced professionalism. Approachability and affability are not universally endorsed as essentials for the professional sportsman and Andrew the amateur had both in

And he still has. Yet to hear him now is to appreciate how much he - or perhaps that should be rugby - has changed. Amateurism having departed with his famous drop goal, pro-fessionalism is suddenly England rugby's only salvation against the likes of South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

"It is almost a cultural change we need in the northern hemisphere," he said. "It means being professional about winning from an early age. It's the only way the likes of Scotland, Ireland and England can live with the southern hemisphere. We have to make playing at a higher level and winning important."

These remarks, made in a

television programme over the weekend that reviewed the 1995 World Cup, mark a cultural change in themselves. Andrew is in the marketplace to buy a team for Newcastle - no different in principle (only in the number of noughts on the contracts) from Kevin Keegan, his Newcastle football counterpart.

Monica's meltdown

John Roberts recounts the day when a fairy-tale comeback was cheated of a happy ending

Aesthetically speaking, the home of the United States Open bears little or no comparison to Wimbledon. Flushing Meadows, New York, was once used for dumping and burning Brooklyn's rubbish - F Scott Fitzgerald called it "a val-ley of ashes" in The Great Gatsby - but the place atones by staging many of the most exciting tennis matches imaginable. despite weird scheduling.

Female players, while treated equally with men in terms of the tournament's prize money - \$575,000 went to each of this year's singles champions - seem almost to be regarded as an afterthought on the day of the final. Their lot, on what is known as "Super Saturday", is to be sandwiched between the two men's singles semi-finals to satisfy television's demands.

But no one doubted which match rated top billing on 9 September – Steffi Graf versus Monica Seles. The two greatest players of their generation, jointly ranked No 1 in the world, had played their way to the most eagerly awaited contest for years.

An American commentator said Seles and Graf had both been stabbed in the back: Seles,

No 1 in the world rankings; Graf, figuratively, by her father/ manager Peter, who was in prison accused of evading millions of marks in tax on her

Graf had won six of the 10 major championships played in Seles's absence since the stabbing in Hamburg in 1993, each victory perceived by many to have been hollow. Through no fault of her own, Graf had come to be regarded as the dominating force in a diminished league in which other competitors prospered chiefly when she was unfit.

Seles, restored physically and mentally and granted a share of the No 1 ranking which had been hers at the time of the attack, had altered only slightly. Aged 19 when assaulted, she was, at 21, an inch and a half

Monica Seles: still grunting a valley of ashes.

taller - 5ft 11in. She had also gained a few pounds around the middle and had provoked a niggling knee injury trying to run them off.

Otherwise, she was as we remembered - the flurry of two-handed strokes, the screwing up of the nose in concentration, the grunting (perhaps not so loud or frequent as before, but given vent if the going got tough), and the giggling, which continued to punctuate interviews.

The credibility of women's tennis was at stake when Graf and Seles eventually made their way to the Stadium Court. The fact that Seles, although rusty, had won the 11 matches of her comeback without losing a set hardly reflected credit on her opponents. If Graf, her equal, also suffered humiliation, potential sponsors could have been lost to the sport.

However, all these misgivings were cast aside when the action began, 20,000 spectators thrilling to an oscillating contest. At the end, only one point separated the players. And it was in Graf's favour - at 7-6 0-6 6-3.

More than two years of pain and anguish seemed to evaporate as Graf and Seles embraced - a day of splendour in

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fluency." "They did two years work in three

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Eleven good men and true

Of course, there is no such thing as an ideal cricket team, because it depends what you want. In the heyday of the fast men. Clive Lloyd would probably have picked 11 expresspace bowlers, while Geoff Boycott, in his fierce prime, might have plumped for 11 limpet-like opening bats. But most people like a bit of everything the odd thunderclap of speed in the bowling supported by plenty of guile, and a mixture of steeliness. and virtuosity from the batsmen.

But for those who like their cricket acrimonious, the game might easily furnish 11 players guaranteed to run each other- for "best all-rounder" honours out. Lara and Richardson, who and opponents in an on-going have given the world the spec-libel action about racism. As it have given the world the spectacle of a West Indies captain and vice-captain barely on side - but it might be the first speaking terms, could open the time in history that a team has batting. Salim Malik would have needed 11 dressing rooms. port Shape Warne and Tim pile a team designed purely to though there is a case, now that else, that would take these soto drop down the order to sup-May, the Anistralians who have twist the tongues of commenta-

Robert Winder selects his fantasy World Cricket XI

bowling with Philip DeFreitas, whose cricket bag he once, famously, chucked out of the payilion window at Leicester, and it is hard to imagine a less chimmy pair of back-up bowlers than Devon Malcolm and Ray Illingworth Slagging it out in the middle order would be lan Botham and Imran Khan, rivals happens, this wouldn't be a bad

It might be more fun to com-

England's Rob Andrew boots the Aussies - and the old rugby union - into touch

accused him of attempted tors. One of the more pleasant bribery. Jonathan Agnew might have to be recalled to open the bowling with Philip DeFreitas. West Indian fast bowler, insisted on referring to Atherton as Arthurton and vice versa. These two would, as it happens, make a fine opening partnership. They could be followed by Waugh and Waugh, Richardson and Richardson, Rhodes, Rhodes, Benjamin, Benjamin and Kumble (with Kambli twelfth man).

A serious selection is altogether trickier: the great play-ers of the present day never seem so grand as the fabled performers of yesteryear. Still, not many people would argue with the front four batsmen: Ather-ton, Slater, Lara and Tendulkar, show 'em who's boss. If nothing England's captain has proved called world-beaters down a pcg.

himself the master of the rear-guard action, for sticking him in at number 11, just in case. Nor are there many batsmen in the world who would fancy their chances against a bowling attack of Allan Donald, Waqar Younis, Curtly Ambrose, Shane Warne and Anil Kumble.

The wicketkeeper would be lan Healy (if only because he has, as it were, been Warned), which leaves a single batting place up for grabs. Azharuddin gets "the nod" on the basis that he'd probably be captain. Naturally, with all these mae-

stros competing for the lime-light. Mickey Stewart would have to be team manager. There'd be lots of work-outs in the gym, early nights and fines for unpunctuality. As all sports administrators know, the key

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Who's out of the in-crowd?

IN THIS YEAR

Hugh Grant and Liz Hurley. A divine couple still, proving there is less to life than rehearsed diffidence (him) and minimal dressing (her). Anthea Turner. For smiling a lot. For being Anthea.

Prince William, who escaped the helf of a dysfunctional family for the helt of a public school. Imran Khan and Jemima Goldsmith. The marriage everyone assumes won't last. But it will. She won't want to give up wearing those designer shalwar kameez. Demure Baymatch babe Pamela Anderson and modest husband Tommy Lee. Their willingness to share every inch of their private life with the world has kept the *Daily Star* in

The Stones. The Voodoo Lounge tour proved they ain t ready to fade awa PR person Julia Carling. who rode the storm of



with Princess Diana with such aplomb she became the patron saint of PR persons and landed her own TV

Bob Geldor, who looked sorry for himself and still resolutely refuses to wash. **Brookside**. The scap had the nation agog when battered wife Mandy Jordache tought for justice after killing her husband and burying his body under the patio, and aquiver over Beth Jordache's lesbian kisses. Eric Cantona. Elevated thanks to Nike to godlike status after his high-kicking Crystal Palace fan. Michael Jackson. who still has hit records and still appears to be married to Lisa-Marie. Invide: Ronnie Knight.

one-time love of Barbara Windsor, After years defying extradition on the Costa del Crime, he gave himself up and was surprised to be sent down for seven years. Vanessa Mae, who tool off her clothes and learnt how to play the violin. Loaded - magazine of the leer - for appealing to the baser instincts of young men and making unpolitical correctness correct.

MOEPENDENT

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Julie Goodyear, aka Bet Gilnw, the bechive temptress of the Raver's Return, who left Coronation Street for a life of panto and chat shows. Anne Diamond and Nick Owen... sofa, but no further. lan and Rachael

Featherstone, who sued the tour firm Cosmos after their honeymoon in St Lucia was wrecked by a hurricanc. They claimed it upset them so much they couldn't make love. **Kenny Everett**, who died from Aids in an £8,000 hed bought for the occasion from Harrods. Cherie Blair's clothes. Gillian Taylforth, of

EastEnders. for writing the dullest autobiography of all time in an attempt to explain what pancreatitis really is. Two-timer **Ken Dunn**. When he died his mistress and widow went to court to see who could be buried alongside him. The mistress won.

Gazza. Lost his touch on the

field and his long-suffering girlfriend, Sheryl, as well. Stephen Fry walked out on Cellmates, resurfaced on the Internet, sported a succession of bad hair-dos. **The Beatles**. Imagine what Lennon would have made of

all the rehashed mediocrity.

Robbie Williams, sacked

from Take That. He immediately guaranteed the end of his 15 minutes by posing in a bikini bottom. Paula Yates who left the Big Breakfast and Bob Geldol for INXS singer Michael Hutchence, who she boasted was God's gift to women. More off than out: Emma Thompson and Kenneth Branagh. She then showed more sensibility than sense by romancing Sense and Sensibility co-star Greg Wise. More over and out than out: Ultrika Jonsson, who tossed her blonde mane and confessed to two-timing her



husband with Gladiator Hunter. The couple had been together long enough to have a baby after she had confessed about another affair with a cameraman, Jill Morrell and John McCarthy. The romance that everyone wanted to work, didn't. In. out. swing it all about: Princess Diana.

RICHARD HOLLEGE



Period pin-up: Mr Darcy in the BBC's 'Pride and Prejudice', played by Colin Firth. The video sold 12,000 copies within two hours of release

Our knight in icy armour

Why did the emotionally repressed Mr Darcy send the nation's women into a swoon? Decca Aitkenhead on the shortcomings of the man of the year

Few could have predicted that this female readership. It was concluded the year's man of the moment, the sex BBC, all due to "the Darcy phenomenon". One young professional devotee explained: "It was his total inability to symbol to outshine all Hollywood's Pride and Prejudice, glowered his way effortlessly into the place in our heaving hearts previously occupied by Hugh Grant, Keanu Reeves and, for some of

the young, the entire cast of Take That. It was an astonishing rise to fame for Colin Firth (the hitherto unremarkable jobbing luvvie who played Darcy), as he himself reluctantly admits. Within two episodes, he had shot to heights of amorous adulation of which most period drama actors could but dream. The autumn series drew audiences of more than 10 million; the video sold in excess of 70,000 copies (the first run, of 12,000, sold out within two hours t: the Times was congratulated on its almost daily publication of Firth's picture by a grateful

years old. Mr Darcy. Austenian hero of run off a poster of Colin Firth in his wet T-shirt, it would probably sell enough to halve the licence fee - that tousled brown hair and those deep-set eyes ...

murmured another. The Independent's

own diarist, Bridget Jones, indulged in

lengthy fantasy: "I love the way he talks, as if he can't be bothered," she drooled. Pictures of Darcy, lovingly cut out, appeared like a rash on office pin boards and suburban fridge doors. Revelations that Firth and co-star Jennifer Ehle were conducting an on-set affair off-camera only served to fuel the frenzy

focused on all things Darcy. Fascination with his breeches knew no bounds. But what precisely was it about our brooding hero that sent a nation into

collective freefall swoon?

One young professional devotee The ladies of Fleet Street were, to a express his emotions. He was such an hunkiest, would be a character some 200 woman, won over, "If the BBC were to arrogant bastard - but he did the transformation from icy, arrogant bastard to warm, caring individual so well.

"It was the facial hair as well, I think. He always had a bit of very manly latent stubble." And she seemed to speak for the nation's women, or her mother and sister at least.

So, an arrogant, unkempt, icy bastard, incapable of indicating that he harbours hidden but warmer waters, saved only by the love of a good woman - is this nat the Nineties female goes for?

If this is the contemporary thinking woman's beefcake, then what we are seeing is an epidemic of mad cows. Darcy is the height of unreconstructed male inadequacy. Trapped within a peculiarly masculine vanity, he behaves disgracefully, yet he attracts and in-

trigues women who should know better. The only reason they lost the plot so shamelessly over him," according to one of the few women unmoved by Darcy's dubious charms, "was because he was supposedly 'highbrow'. It was perfectly OK for intelligent women to relapse into idiocy over someone created by Jane Austen - they could never have done it over some bloke invented by Hollywood."

Darcy does indeed prove himself ultimately worthy of Miss Bennett's affections. But what is so distressing is that it was his preceding pride and posturing that captivated the viewers. Women idolised Darcy not in spite of his "total inability to express his feelings". but because of it.

If the British women's sex symbol of 1995 was two centuries out of date, so, too, it seems, were their demands for a half-decent man.

A lousy year for Leeson

She never wanted to be anything except Nick Leeson's wife. She is not materialistic and despite the rumours, her husband only earned £52,000 a year - not a lot by top City standards. She wished he could spend more time at home with her and, above all, she longed for a baby. Unfortunately, Nick

Leeson had greater ambitions.

When they celebrated the new year with friends in Singapore, Nick was one of Barings' most dazzling young money-spinners, gambling on Japanese futures on the Nikkei-225 index. The bank gave him a pretty free hand; it just sat back and let him make millions. He was promised a £450,000 bonus in March and told Lisa they would hang on long enough to collect that, then go back to England, buy a nice house with a big garden and

start a family. He may even have believed it; certainly Lisa did. In the early weeks of 1995 she knew he was under a lot of stress. He could not sleep at night; he never relaxed. She did not know the stress was because Nick had gambled more than £600m of the bank's money, and it looked as though he was

on a losing streak.

By the end of February catastrophe could no longer be avoided. Nick resigned from Barings and took his wife away for the weekend - anywhere, wherever the next flight was going to - to explain himself before going back to face the music. As they flew out of Sin-gapore the world's press, and his former employers, were already searching for them.

Four days later, on 2 March. they landed in Frankfurt. For the next eight months Lisa travelled to Germany every week to spend an hour with her hus-band in Frankfurt prison, while the lawyers argued about whether he should be tried in England or Singapore. By July. Lisa had thrown herself into the fray, pleading with the media to help her busband fight extradition to Malaysia.

Singapore won. On 22 November she accompanied Nick as he was flown back to stand trial. He pleaded guilty and on 2 Dec-ember was sentenced to six and a half years. Privately, he had hoped for four. Lisa will spend those years doing what she has done for most of her married life: waiting for her husband to

come home. In 1995 Lisa's world collapsed around her. In January she was living in Singapore in some style, waiting only for Nick's big bonus before they could go home. Now she is home all right, but living with her parents in the same Kent village from which she was married less than four years ago. She works part-time in a local tea-room, wearing an old-fash-ioned black and white waitress's uniform and serving homemade cakes and scones

How does she feel, looking back? "Not bitter, but disappointed and numb. Nick was only doing his job as best he could. I've had untold letters of support and they all think Nick's been scapegoated. I feel that, too. If somebody, somewhere in Barings had questioned what he was doing, this would never have happened." She may be a sadder and a a devoted and loyal wife.

Angela Lambert

Barrymore shows honesty pays

The funny man's coming out seemed only to enhance his popularity, says John Lyttle Barrymore read the papers

The rumours had been cir-culating since 1985, the year Michael Barrymore became the star in ITV's light entertainment firmament as the hyperactive host of Strike It Lucky. There had been ominous rumblings early in 1995 - "Barrymore falls off the wagon. "Drag queen talks of his nights out with Barrymore". "Mar-riage of funny man is believed to be in crisis". But it was not until 6 August that the Sunday tabloids felt the time was right to expose Britain's most popular television performer as a "closet case" - a tortured gay supposedly sheltering behind his wife and manager. Cheryl, while indulging in drink, drugs and illicit sexual liaisons. As it turned out, the time was

not right. The viewers who made the superstar refused to break him. But when the predictably larid headlines began, his continued survival as a stellar presence looked doubtful. "Girls claim to have seen comedian kissing man in gay club" was bad, but not as damaging as "Barrymore makes drunken pass at Bobby Davro", However, that seemed tame in comparison with "John Davis reveals Michael Barrymore's nights of gay love", John Davis being the funny man's former personal assistant and (claimed Davis) ex-lover. Davis stated that he was spilling the beans not to harm Barrymore, but to save him: "Michael must face up to the truth of who and what he is. He is a very sick man who is deny-

ing his real sexual feelings."

Cannes, minus Cheryl, to weather the storm", as one observer breathlessly put it. Actually, it was not so much storm as soap opera. Right down to Barrymore turning up in Croydon the next day to begin shooting his new series. My Kind of People, and his wife's unexpected appearance being rewarded with a photogenic kiss. If the intention was to calm rampant "is he isn't he' speculation, it accomplished he opposite. Public opinion further divided; some wanted him to "come out", some could

not comprehend the fuss, some

could not believe their hero was

and flew back to Britain from

homosexual. As one punter comforted Cheryl, "We know it ISB 1 SO. Barrymore knew better. By 19 August, so did everyone else. Invited on to the stage of the White Swan pub in London and asked by the drag queen compare if the finally decided to tell the world". Barrymore answered "Yes ... yes. I am." fore off his wedding ring and shouted, "Fuck it." The media feeding frems redoubled, especially when Barrymore confirmed his coming out ("It saved my life") on a gay radio programme. The burning topic - could Barrymore's career go

on? - leapt from the news, fea-

tures and comment pages, as pundits weighed in with their opinions. The *Daily Mirror* praised his honesty - "It took lot of courage for troubled Michael Barrymore to admit he's gay" - while Today peddled cynicism: "It is hard to shake the feeling that it was all an

What was now becoming clear was the fans' refusal to find either the star's sexual orientation, or the muck-raking exposure of it, a reason to end their allegiance to him. There were attempts to whip up indig-nation on behalf of Cheryl, the and his own caring, compas-

"betrayed party". According to the *People*, "Michael Barry-more has shown no courage whatsoever. He has been dragged, kicking and screaming all the way out of that closet. These fell on deaf ears, though arguably the public had as much right to feel betrayed as any spouse. After all, Barrymore had sold himself as a family man trying his best; his constituency empathised with his terrible childhood, his struggles with booze and dope, his anguish over Cheryl's miscarriages.

probably saved his bacon. Barrymore Goes Gay appeared to be yet another episode in a weepie that Britain did not want to end - and it, at last provided an explanation for his earlier self-destructive behaviour. When 29 August rolled around and he swept the National TV Awards, triumphing in all his nommated categories (best presenter, best quiz and - the big one - best family programme) it was, to every newspaper's bitter disappointment, all over. Barrymore had come through the "scandal" not only unscathed, but enhanced - final proof, if any was needed, that there's nowt so queer as folk. David Ashby, please copy.



Lisa Leeson: still loval

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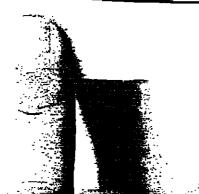
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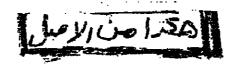
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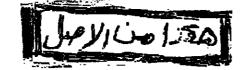


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ALL BRAN



SALES GUIDE: WHERE TO FIND WHAT AND WHEN

the sales

NICK TURPIN

START TODAY

HOMES AND INTERIORS

2 Drury Way, North Circular Road, London NW10 (0181-208 5600) and at branches in Croydon, Birmingham, Gateshead, Leeds and War-rington. To 14 January. Up to 50 per cent savings throughout the store, including black leather three-seat sofa from £335 to £249.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Body Shop First nationwide sale. Customer services (01903 731500). To 13 January. Products range from Seaweed & Birch shampoo (reduced from £1:25 to 60p) to Mamatoto Baby Bottom (reduced from £2 to £1) for. those who want a cheap cure

SCOTLAND

for sore bottoms.

DEPARTMENT STORES

(Scottish branches) General customer information 0171-408

House of Fraser (Scottish branches) Aberdeen (01224 592341), Edinburgh (0131-225 2472), Glasgow (0141-221 3880). To last week of January.

CLOTHES

Laura Ashley (Scottish branches) Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth. Customer services (01686 622333) Between 20-50 per cent off selected items.

of all ranges of mof knichen fur-

301 Oxford Street, London W1

(0171-409 2619) and at stores nationwide. Discounted goods

include the Kastle bike Degree 3.5 - was £299.99, now £240.

Nike ladies' air total body train-

ers are down from £59.99 to

SALES TO COME

DEPARTMENT STORES

per cent, and 30 per cent off Weekend collections. Reduc-

nection, Jacques Vert and Bianca; 50 per cent off leather handbags and selected jew-ellery by Monet, Ciro and

Fortnum & Mason Sale starts 28 December at 181

Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-

Smash-and-grab of the year

starts 3 January at Knights-bridge, London SWI (0171-730 1234). Reductions of up to

half price are offered through-

out the store. Account cus-

tomers receive an additional 10

per cent off their shopping on

expected to last around three

weeks. Account customers get

an additional 10 per cent off the sale price for the first four

items throughout the store.

Starts 27 December in England

House of Fraser

day one of the sale.

408 3333.

Fenwick

MISCELLANEOUS

Racing Green 16 Buchanan Street, Glasgow (0141-226 4114). A sale catalogue can be obtained from 27 December on 0345 331177. Reductions on selected men's and women's classic items of

NOW RUNNING

CLOTHES

30-60 per cent.

Christian Lacroix 8a Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 2400) and 29 Old Bond Street, London W1-(0171-409 1994). To middle/end lanuary. Discounts of 30 per

Comme des Garçons 59 Brook Street, London W1 (0171-493 1258). To mid January. Reductions of up to 40 per cent off all remaining men's and women's collections including Robes de Chambre. Comme des Garçons Tricot and Junya Watanabe.

French Connection 99 Long Acre, London WC2 and branches around the country. General inquiries (0171-580 2507). 30-50 per cent off Fenn Wright & Manson, Betty selected stock. Barclay collections by up to 50

Unit 17, The Piazza, Covent tions at Brent Cross include up Garden, London WC2 (0171-to 50 per cent off French Con-836 9168) and branches nationwide. General customer information 0171-586 5550. Buy your party gear at prices discounted by up to 50 per cent. Strappy stilettoes are reduced from £59.99 to £29.99, ballerina shoes from £28.99 to £19.99, satin cross-over dress from £64.99 to £32.99, bouclé flared dress from £49.99 to £29.99 and leopard skirt down from £49.99 to £29.99.

Basement, 4 Brewer Street, London W1 (0171-437 1259). To end of January. Thirty to 50 per cent off Hysteric Glamour (the Japanese answer to really cool' T-shirts), Judy Blame and Gimme 5.

SHOES

Only at 184-188 Oxford Street. London W1. Sale starts at other branches this weekend. Mail order and inquiries on 0171-631 0224. Up to 33 per cent off this season's boots, bags and stiletto-heeled shoes.

HOMES AND INTERIORS

Rhode Design 65 Cross Street, London N1

and Wales. For store sites, ring (0171-354 9933). Ten per cent 0171-963 2236. Bargains in the

HOBB^s **NOW ON REDUCTIONS OF UP TO 50%**

ALL BRANCHES NATIONWIDE For nearest branch telephone: 0171 586 5550

Amanda Wakeley Starts 5 January for about two weeks at 80 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-584 4009). Reductions will be 40-80 per

cookshop include 40 per cent off Le Creuset cast iron cookniture; 60cm wall cupboard reduced from £195 to £175.50. ware in American green and burgundy and 50 per cent off Judge satin stainless steel cook-ware. Over at the homewares department, Drifter goosedown duet duvets (9 tog for spring, autumn and 4.5 tog for sum-mer) are half the recommended retail price at £129. Also half price is Romantique embellished bed linen in cream and white, reduced from £70 to

John Lewis Partnership

Clearance sale starts 28 December at 278-306 Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-629 7711) at the following branches - Peter Jones, Sloane Square, Starts 27 December at branches John Lewis, Brent Cross, Bainthroughout England and Wales. 334-348 Oxford Street, London bridge, Newcastle, John Lewis, Cheadle, John Lewis, High Wycombe, John Lewis, W1 (0171-580 3000). General Aberdeen and John Lewis, customer information, 0171-Edinburgh. The sale starts 29 January at all other branches including Bonds, Norwich; Cole Brothers, Sheffield; John Starts 27 December at 63 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629 9161) and stores in Lewis, Bristol. Savings around the store of up to 50 per cent. Many bargains in furnishing fabrics, including John Lewis's Brent Cross, Windsor, Leicester, York, Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells. Sale at the large own brand Jonelle, and the Newcastle branch starts 28 china department. Reductions December. At Bond Street, on Royal Doulton, Royal Albert, Portmeirion and Spode Mondi collections will be reduced by 30-50 per cent; 'Blue' Italian ranges.

> Starts 27 December at Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 1234) and branches nationwide. Join the hordes sniffing out fabric bargains such as printed Armani silk down from £89.95 to £25, Liberty printed silk from £14.95 to £10 and Liberty Veruna wool from £22 to £15. Georgina von Etzdorf velvet scarves are down from £95 to £65, English Eccentrics vel-vet devoré scarves from £159 to £109. Liberty print watches with plain faces are reduced from £29.95 to £14.95 and Jean Paul Gaultier jewellery is half price. Pewter-framed mirrors

Marks & Spencer End-of-season clearance will start 27 December at branches nationwide. Customer inquiries to £60. (0171-935 4422).

are down from £59 to £29.

Harvey Nichols Starts 27 December at 109-125 Selfridges Starts 27 December at Oxford Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5000). The sale is Street, London W1 (0171-629 1234). Armchair browsers can check out sale bargains in Selfridges Selection mail order catalogue, available now (0800 101101). The first week is Sel-fridges' busiest of the year. If days. Specific bargains are a secret, but expect reductions to you choose to join the 85,000 be up to 50 per cent off selected due through the doors on the first day, expect to find dis-counts from designer labels,

furniture and china to carpets. Ladieswear discounts include Max Mara suits from £305 to £152, Betty Jackson jackets from £315 to £157 and Moschino T-shirts down from £49 to £34. Fifty per cent off handbags by DKNY, Fendi and Osprey. Menswear discounts include up to 50 per cent off Hugo Boss, Nicole Farhi and YSL, CK by Calvin Klein. Thirty per cent off Paul Smith, Giorgio Armani coats and Polo Ralph Lauren.

CLOTHES

Kingston-upon-Thames. Surcent off, including samples.

Aquascutum From 27 December at 100

Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 6090. Reductions of 50-75 per cent on selected

Starts 27 December at Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 6789) and nationwide. Account

Austin Reed

customers can take advantage of an extra 5 per cent discount on sale prices on the first three days. Selected merchandise discounted by up to 50 per cent including men's wool coats reduced from £279 to £139, wool jackets from £179 to £129. Women's winter coats down from £279 to £139.

From 5 January to 27 January. At 344 King's Road, London W3 (0171-352 3697). Good discounts on cashmere and tweed. For example, chunky cable cashmere knits down from £225 to £180, cashmere skinny ribs from £150 to £120, tweed country coats from £195 to £145.

Starts 4 January at 23-27 South Molton Street (0171-491 7833). Donna Karan dark camel one-button fitted jacket reduced from £1,180 to £600, matching skirt from £425 to £230. Menswear reductions include Browns Own Label suit £570, reduced to £400.

Starts 6 January at 26 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 5040); 31 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 6631). Reductions on ready-to-wear collections and shoes of about 30 per cent.

Herbert Johnson Starts 4 January at 30 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-408 1174). Reductions of 50 per cent on couture hats, casual hats 25 per cent off and accessories 30 per cent off. Pull-on felt hat down from £105 to £79. Men's hats reduced by up to 60 per cent, a felt trilby is down from £95

Starts 27 December 77 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-823 9500) Reductions from 30 per cent off.

This mail order sale starts 1 January. Call 01494 890555. British Designer Collections catalogue £7.50, Diffusion catalogue, £3.50. Phones are staffed from 9am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 6pm Saturday; Sundays 7 and 14 Jan 9.30-4.30pm. Sale of designer fashions by mail order means you don't need to leave your armchair to hunt bargains. Half price on Paul Costelloe, Nicole Farhi, Jasper Conran, Jaeger London and Amanda Wakeley.

Laura Ashley Begins 27 December at branches nationwide. Inquiry number 01686 622116. Between 20 and 50 per cent off selected items.

Racing Green Starts 27 December at 193 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-437 4300), 33 King Street, Manchester (0161-835 2022), Unit F1, Bentall Centre,

rey (0181-546 2224). A sale catalogue can be obtained from 27 December on 0345 331177. Reductions on selected men's and women's classic items of 30-60 per cent. Men's corduroy trousers from £39 to £25 (PW605), ladies' wool cashmere backing jacket down from £115 to £50.

The Scotch House

Starts 27 December at 2 Brompton Road, Knights-bridge, London SW1, 84-86 Regent Street, London W1, and 64 Buchanan Street, Glasgow. Reductions of 30-40 per cent on good quality cashmere and wool jumpers, for example a gold buttoned cashmere cardigan reduced from £235 to £169. Inquiries on 0171-581

Starts 28 December at 11am, 41 Thomas Neal's, Earlham Street, London WC2 (0171-379 7030). Between 30 and 40

per cent off designer labels and accessories including Clements Ribeiro, Future Ozbek, Alberto Biani, Soap Studio, Liza Bruce and Fenn Wright & Manson.

Starts 27 December at 19-21 Argyll Street, London W1 (0171-437 7101) and branches nationwide.

Wealth of Nations From 31 January while stocks last. Up to 60 per cent off dis-continued stock, for example Irish cord workshirts in five colours reduced from £38 to £20. Mail order from Wealth of Nations, Unit 28, The Talina Centre, Bagleys Lane, London SW6 2BW (0171-371 5333).

SHOES

Church's Starts 27 December at branches throughout the country. Central inquiry number is 01323 649408. Some styles reduced by more than 50 per cent. Church Bellini men's shoes down from £199 to £99, ladies' lily-style high-heeled boot reduced from £120 to £60.

Dr Martens Starts 4 January (midday) at 1-4 King Street, Covent Gar-den, London WC2 (0171-497 1460). Discounts of 25 per cent will be available on selected lines of footwear, clothing and accessories, with possibility of further reductions as the sale

Jones Bootmakers Sale starts 27 December at branches throughout the country. Inquiry number is 01323-

Starts 27 December at 32 Neal Street, London WC2 (0171 240 8148) and branches nationwide. Reductions include court shoes reduced from £79 to £40. pumps £65 to £30 and long poots from £95 to £50.

Starts 27 December at branches

Pied à terre

nationwide – already running at 184-188 Oxford Street, London W1. Mail order and inquiries on 0171-631 0224. Up to 33 per cent off this season's boots, bags and stiletto-heeled shoes.

Starts 27 December at 1 & 23 Heath Street, Hampstead, Thomas Neal's, Earlham NW3. Rather than having a

Street, London WC2 (0171 240 5576) and branches nationwide. General inquiries (0171-937 3137). Selected stock reduced by 50 per cent. Sixtiesstyle knee-length nylon boots in gold, black or rust reduced from £120 to £60.

£29.95

Small and Tall Shoe Shop Sale of women's shoes in large or small sizes. Sale for large sizes (8 1/2-111/2) runs from 27 Dec to 6 Jan. Small sizes (121/2-21/2) will be reduced from 10 January to 20 January, 71 York Street, London W1 (0171-723

5321). All current stock will be

HOMES & INTERIORS

The Conran Shop Starts 6 January until 21 Janu- bathroom suites reduced from ary at 81 Fulham Road, Lon-

reduced.

SW3 (0171-589 7401). The Conran Shop is also holding a two-day warehouse furniture sale 6 January (10am-6.30pm) and 7 January (10am-4pm); discounts of half price are promised along with even lower-priced bargains. There will be courtesy buses running between the shop and the warehouse (Unit 16, Merton Park Estate, Lee Road, London SW16).

Crucial Trading
Sale starts 28 December, ends 28 February. Fifty per cent reduction on certain floor cov-

erings, including Old School Group Coir (now £6.38 per square metre) and Candy Stripe Liquorice Sisal (now £11.15 per square metre). Twenty five per cent off seagrass floorings and a 20 per cent reduction on everything else. Crucial Trading, 77 Westbourne Park Road, London W2 (0171-221 9000) and 4 St Barnabas Street, Pimlico Green, London SW1 (0171-221 9000).

Designers Guild Starts 6 January until 20 January at 267 Kings Road, London SW3 (0171-351 5775). There will also be a warehouse sale on 13-21 Jan at 6 Relay Road, Ariel Way, off Wood Lane, London W12. Reductions on upholstery, bedlinen, cushions,

rugs and tableware. Fabric and

wallpaper only at the ware-

The General Trading Company Starts 6 January until 27 January at 144 Sloane Street, London SWI (0171-730 0411) and 27 December at 10 Argyle Street, Bath (01225-461507) and 2-4 Dyer Street, Cirencester (01285-652314). Save up to 30 per cent on this clear-out. Selected cushions reduced from £52.10 to £36.47, quilted cotton bedspreads from £180 to £135

Starts 27 December at 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-636 1666), 234 King's Road and Tunsgate, Guildford. Look for greatly reduced oneeither shop-soiled, damaged or buyers' samples, along with lit-tle luxuries like a Heal's handmade Avon bed (5ft) reduced from £2,495 to £1,870.

Jerry's Home Store At 163 Fulham Road, SW3; Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1: The Bentall Centre, Kingston-upon-Thames; 57

From 6 to 27 January. At 135-139 Curtain Road, Londor. EC2 (0171-739 1869). Designer furniture and accessories by Jasper Morrison. Matthew Hilton, Le Corbusier, Mies Van Der Rohe. Discounts of up to 50 per cent on shop floor models, and 15 per cent off any other furniture ordered during

Victoria & Albert Museum

Shop Starts 8 January at Cromwell Road, London SW7 (0171-938 8468). Up to 75 per cent off selected lines of replica glasses, plates, cups and saucers, platters, goblet and contemporarystyle vases. Also 50 per cent of selected items of V&A jewellery and fashion accessories including earrings, brooches, cufflinks, silk waistcoats and

MISCELLANEOUS

Buyers & Sellers 120-122 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 (0171-229 1947). Dial-a-bargain sale of domestic appliances runs from 27 December until 31 January The idea is that you name the item - brand, model number and ring up for a sale price quotation. Special offers include Neff table dishwashers £189, De Dietrich stainless steel gas hobs £117.

The Charleston Shop

and Gallery Sale 6 and 7 January, 12-5pm. Charleston Gallery/shop. Charleston, near Firle, Lewes, East Sussex (01323-811626). Everything will be reduced by 25-50 per cent. Some seconds of Quentin Bell's ceramics will be available to purchase.

David Mellor

regular sale, Jerry's are pro-

moting particular "Smart Buys"

in January and February, reduc-

ing the prices of classic Amer-

ican kitchen and home wares.

invited to telephone 0171-581

Starts 28 December, ends 13

January. At Crossways, Church,

Some massive discounts.

including complete marble

Starts 3 January. Sell flooring

by mail order from Natural

Flooring Direct, PO Box 8104.

London SE16 4ZA (0800 454

721). Ten per cent off all stock,

plus free fitting, free underlay

and free sight survey. For exam-

ple, coir natural panama

reduced from £16.99 per square

metre to £15.30, wool bouclé

reduced from £20.99 per square

metre to £18.99.

fabric halved to £6.30.

kitchen ware, selected terra-

Starts 27 December at 80-81

and 83 Tottenham Court Road,

London W1 (0171-580 8223).

Up to 40 per cent off ex-display

and discontinued lines. Special

orders will be reduced by 10 per

cent on items over £500.

cotta and a range of vases.

Purves & Purves

Nice Irma's

The Pier

0909 for a catalogue.

£2,500 to £800.

Natural Flooring Direct

Sale starts 6 January for two weeks at 4 Sloane Square, London SW1 (0171-730 4259). Dis-For example, there's 24 per cent off the American Diner "Gibraltar" tumbler (now £2.25), 34 per cent off their white rag rug, now £5.95; 27 per cent off their popcorn popper. now £19.95. Customers are counts range from 10 per cent on all standard kitchen merchandise, including kitchen knives and tools, pottery and porcelain, glassware and coffee-makers. Twenty per cent off most of the David Mellor range of cutlery. For real bargainhunters, up to 90 per cent discount on odds and ends of slightly damaged or soiled merchandise. It's worth noting that Farnham, Surrey (01428 714014). Sells decorative bath-room and kitchen objects. David Mellor only has a sale once a year.

Mulberry Hall

Runs 4 January until 3 February at Stonegate, York (01904-620736). Splash out on famous names such as Wedgwood Spode and Royal Worcester at discounts of 30 per cent while seconds in Royal Doulton. Minton and Royal Crown Derby are half the normal price. A dinner service for 10 in Spode's 'Chancellor Cobalt' design is reduced from £2,395 to £1,595. A tea set for 10 in the same design is reduced from £1,235 to £825.

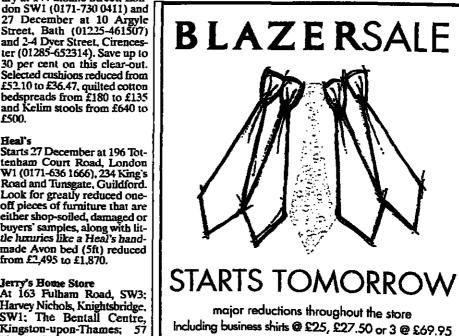
The Pukka Palace

Sale starts 28 December, ends 28 January. Twenty per cent off their Anglo-Indian furniture Starts 8 January at 46 Goodge Street, London W1 (0171-580 and accessories, such as leather safari suitcases and solar topis. 6921). Discounts of up to 50 per cent off a large range of iron Pukka Palace, 174 Tower and brass candlesticks and off selected fabrics. Price of plaid Bridge Road, London SE1 (0171-234 0000).

Snow + Rock

Starts 27 December through to Runs from 28 December until the end of January at 188 21 January at stores around Kensingon High Street, Lonthe country. Customer inquiries 0171-351 7100. don W8 (0171-937 0872) and branches nationwide. Savings Christmas merchandise is of 10 per cent off all accessories reduced to clear. Other merand ski boots with selected chandise at half price or less items substantially reduced. includes china ranges, marble

From 1 January to 14 February. At 124 Walcot Street, Bath (01255 469455). Ring for other branches. Up to 50 per cent off good-quality toys. For example, puppet theatre reduced from £17.99 to £12.99, wooden Timba game from £9.95 to £6.99, crystal radio from £6.95 to £5.95. Postage & packing for mail-order sale items will be reduced to £1.95.



Hopes of a bumper 1995 for bids were realised spectacularly, with a provisional £70bn worth of deals done, writes Magnus Grimond

Record year for takeovers and mergers

of history, industrial logic was to be the new mantra

round artist, but even he was not Stanley of the US five months

What was so great about 1995?

former Bowater (now Rexam)

executive parachuted in to sort

out the sick man of the drugs

sector. Slaying one of the most

ing the bid to 265p and leaving Fisons' shareholders plenty to be pleased about after years of

It also won Mr Wallis a new

reputation as a corporate turn-

able to reverse the currently re-

ceived wisdom that medium-

sized pharmaceuticals groups

such as Fisons will be squeezed

in the new world divided be-

tween giants like Glaxo Well-

come and minnows, like the new

biotech companies which

Test your knowledge of the past year's

triumphs and disasters.

Compiled by Simon Pincombe

underperformance.

vengeance, as British companies chalked up £70bn worth of takeovers and mergers by late

A provisional 1995 estimate from the magazine. Acquisitions Monthly puts the last peak of £47.2bn in 1989 into the shade and pitches last year's £24.8bn into outer darkness. Around £950m of the money that changed hands is estimated to have stuck to the sticky fingers of merchant banks, lawyers, stockbrokers and public relations people, making it easily the best year ever for City advisers.

The omens were propitious from the start, as companies sur-viving the recession rushed to spend the liquidity built up during the recovery - even if the stock market gave little cucouragement, ending 1994 below where it had started. Just 23 days into the new year, the record-breaking £9.1bn bid for Wellcome by its rival Glaxo was a giveaway that 1995 was going

to be a vintage year.
Unlike the freewheeling 1980s, however, the motivation behind the big deals has changed in the more puritan

parently consigned to the dustbin of history, it was not difficult to see that asset stripping and accounting magic would no longer be the driver of the urge to merge - at least not in public.

Instead, industrial logic was to be the new mantra of the politically correct City, with pharmaceuticals, financial services and the privatised water and electricity utilities picked out as ripe for rational-

of Fisons by Rhone-Poulenc

Rorer, the creation of Glaxo

Wellcome put two pharmaceu-

ticals deals into the top five of

the year. Glaxo spoke of the

need to cut bloated research

and development costs, stream-

line management and pack a

bigger punch. Following the

takeover. Glaxo became the

world's biggest drug company,

but its market share only edged ahead to a still pretty unim-

Fisons put up a doughty de-

pressive 5 per cent or so.

and rejuvena-

was. With the

£1.8bn takeover

sacred cows of the industry. Mr Wallis sold off most of Fisons' research and development operations as part of a strategy which all but doubled the price of the shares, levering them up from a low of 105p even before the bid. He eventually squeezed isation, reform

fence under Stuart Wallis, the caught the imagination of the

The other sector where the industrial logic argument held sway was financial services. Having seen 120,000 jobs go in the last six years, it is hard to see where further rationalisation can come. But Lloyds Bank's agreed £6.1bn marriage with TSB - the second-biggest deal of the year - was seen as a fura higher offer out of RPR, tak-ther move in the tidying up of House, which blazed the trail with its £1.2bu

the banking industry

There was also a little local flurry of enthusiasm by foreign-

ers for some of the City's proud-

est names. Having failed to consummate a tie with Morgan

earlier, SG Warburg succumbed ignominuously to Swiss Bank Corporation for £860m. The level to which the once-mighty

Warburg had sunk was graphi-

cally illustrated in June, when

Kleinwort Benson, relegated to

the second division of the mer-

fair share of the takeover fire last year, and industrial logic was hard to discern in the thinking of most of the bidders. The electricity industry and its healthy cash flows became ripe for the picking as the Government's golden shares in the 12 regional electricity companies fell away from March. Trafalgar

tilt at Northern With conglomerates apparently assigned to the dusbin Electric, was

running — the subsequent rev-elation of its own parlous financial position giving a strong clue as to its reasoning. The irony of its situation was underlined as the result in July of the electricity price review prompted by the Trafalgar bid was taken as the green light for a motley collection of other raiders to enter the

They poured across the border from the north as Scottish Power launched a £1bn assault on Manweb, the distributor for Merseyside and North Wales,

visers was publicly rebuked for breaching the Takeover Code and fired by its

17 1995 was a year of currency turbulence. Which of the following ex-

change rates has fallen the most in the

past 12 months, and which the least?

other major currencies?

(a) sterling's effective index against

(b) the Mexican peso against the

(c) the Italian lira against the Ger-

(d) the US dollar against the Yen

18 Who bought the Queen's jewellers,

19 The industrial nations started to

tackle their budget deficits in 1995 -

leading to a government shutdown in

the US and demonstrations on the

streets of Paris. Which OECD country

has the biggest government deficit as a proportion of GDP?

20 The Wellcome trustees were not popular when they pledged their 39.5 per cent of the company to Glazo during the £9.4bn takeover bid in Febru-

ary. Some were personally threatened.

21 Whose shares jumped from just un-

der £5 in the summer to over £26 ear-

22 Wall Street hit numerous successive highs this year. But what was

the most spectacular performing

23 What is the average punt on the

What form did the threat take?

lier this month? And why?

National Lottery?

chant banking sector, gave up its independence for £977m.

One sector draw more than its biggest power utility - also of-

fering £1bn, this time for South
Western Electricity.
As the turkey shoot continued, a water company, North
West Water, was drawn into the fun and games, eventually see-ing off another group of US predators to secure Norweb for £1.8bn in the sixth biggest deal of the year.
With all this action, the old

guard of conglomerates and would-be contenders were clearly itching to get involved. Hanson, already unloved, failed to win back many admirers by hitching itself to Eastern Electricity in a £2.4bn deal. Its share price remained becalmed on a

Meanwhile, Gerry Robinson clearly showed himself keen to emulate Lord Hanson's achievement as he watched his share price go backwards after his Granada Group dropped its £3.3bn bombshell on Porte, the Savoy to Happy Eater group. When the dust settled, that turned out to be potentially the third biggest deal of the year, although the outcome remains far



sectors picked out as ripe for rationalisation

1 Who was Mary Ellen Synon referring to in March when she said: "I kept everything Roo touched - the envelopes on which he wrote my name. the ribbons that were tied around the books he gave me, even the leaders he wrote in The Economist ... I found him divine in everything."

2 Which departing chairman was ings from his office at four o' clock on a February morning?

3 Which regulator wiped £4.25bn off the value of shares in his sector and prompted one overseas institution to describe the City as "a financial banana



4 Who lost his employer \$1.1bn? Was it:-(a) Toshihide Iguchi (b) Nick Leeson (c) Kenneth Clarke

5 Who lost his employer \$1,33bn? Was

(a) Toshihide Iguchi (h) Nick Leeson (c) Kenneth Clarke.

6 Which actor does Nick Leeson want to play the role of Nick Leeson in the forthcoming Hollywood movie of the Barines disaster?

7 Who said of whom: "We would welcome them back - they have my phone



8 Which Bank of England official failed to get the rise he wanted? Was it:-(a) Eddie George (b) Rupert Pennant-Rea

9 Which "fat cat" proved the last straw for the Government, sending Tim Eggar "incandescent" with rage when he insisted on collecting an extra £2(4),000 through a "special dividend"?

10 Which chief executive gave up

since gots at bings was found to stop some

21 British Biotechnology - after one of

treme measures demand extreme

"elazingən

images of 1995: Nick Leeson (above) with (small pictures clockwise from top left) Kenneth Clark, Asprey's, the Ritz and Eddie George

11 What happened when David Jones. accountants personally liable for? chief executive of Sharelink, accused the London Stock Exchange of exploiting its monopoly powers on a BBC radio programme? The LSE had refused to supply real-time share prices over the

12 How much in damages did the High Court award against the accountancy 15 Who bought the Ritz? firm Binder Hamlyn carlier this

13 Who collapsed at the Maxwell trial after delivering the immortal line: "I'm sorry M'Lud this really isn't working..."?

14 Which famous US lawyer took tea with the Maxwell trial judge?

month? And how much are each of the 16 Which firm of public relations ad-

24 Who produced a report which led to a snap change in the taxation of share options, a humiliating government climbdown, and drove its author to wear an apron bearing the words "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen when he appeared before the Commons employment select committee?

The answers

bed "sorobhow sviceeq effection" still gation into boardroom salaries. sire substance. The letter accused the trust warmed that -tiesver s'yrleubal deitir on nous rebel & Spencer chairman, who led the Conletter and a phial containing an explo-24: Sir Richard Greenburg, the Marks 73 £7 a week. 20 The trustees were sent a threatening deficit in 1994. France -6 per cent. 57bn. more than established computer

cent 1993). US had -2 per cent of GDP by Sweden 1-10.4 per cent 1994, -7.3 per gring it a capitalisation of more than mated at -9.5 per cent in 1995), followed OCIZ mode to sharts won one yeb a m 19 Greece (-11.4 per cent in 1994, estiat \$28 a share, soured to above \$70 with-22 Netscape, a new company producing software for the internet. It was floated ister of Brunei. tumours in their tracks,

cent against the yea). 1& Prince Jefri Bolkish, the finance min-(c) - fall of 6.4 per cent (Sterling's index fell 7.7 per cent. The dollar has risen fper construction company. Amer. Least: 7. Most (b) – fall of 55.6 per cent. Least: 7 Marcel Ospel, chief executive of SBC 16 Financial Dynamics were fired by the never resorted to force, but added "ex-

14 O.J Simpson's lawyer, Johnny Cochran 15 The Barclay Frins. 13 Michael Hill, QC. 12 £105m and around £250,000 each. (only to climb down two weeks later). 11 The LSE sued him for delamation shire Mater (so be said). 10 Trenor Venton, chief executive of Jork-National Grid. 9 David Jeffries, chief executive of the

rise in May. cellor oremuled his request for a base rate 8 (a) Eddie George - when the Chankey Warburg players defect to other UK investment bank which saw many

Warburg, following SBC's takeover of the

de Nick Berry, formerly of the BBC soap who perpetrated the biggest financial scandal ever on any soil. 2 (p) Mick Feecon the Barings trader nancial scandal ever on American soil rader, who bethetrated the piggest p-4 (a) Toshibide Iguchi, the Daiwa Bank

cradidown on electricity prices on the first day of dealings in National Power and tricity regulator, when he announced a 3 Professor Stephets Littlechild, the elec-

he founded with his brother. 2 Maurice Saatchi on leaving the firm ernor of the Bank of England, who re-signed after their affair became public. I Rupert Pennant-Rea, the deputy gov-

The fuse is lit for Big Bang's second stage

John Eisenhammer recalls a traumatic year for the City

Nick Leeson lit the fuse of Big corporate finance, once the sector, too, businesses have Bang Two. The explosion did envy of City, is struggling, with been merging across traditionnot just sink one of the City's grandest merchant banking vessels, but unleashed shock waves that are still reverberating across the financial services

They became caught up in other convulsions, in intense competitive pressures, in a surge for size through mergers and takeovers to maximise clout and cost-saving potential, in a push to serve a broad range of markets and products.

It is a very different City that exits 1995 from the one that entered; certainly it is more foreign, and the transformation is far from over. The shake up in investment banking still has to run its course. But it is to buildmanagers and retail banks that the focus of attention is more likely to turn. Big Bang Two looks like having several stages, and some have yet to begin in earnest

Fate and fraud did for Barings. But however much the collapse was explained away as a freak happening, it crystallised the concerns in investment banking circles about whether the medium-sized houses which dominated the City had the re-sources to punch with the US and Continental giants. What followed were the rapid-fire takeovers of some of the City's household names by big bal-ance-sheet foreign banks.

One of the sweeter ironies is that 1995's most spectacular failure ended the year as one of its successes. Dutch-based ING outwitted several of its betterknown rivals to snatch Barings for £1 and, with sensitivity, has

refloated the wreck.
But where ING's absorption of Barings can already be judged a success, it is far too soon make such claims for

envy of City, is struggling, with morale in tatters amidst clashing cultures. One of the UK's finest franchises will look much poorer by the middle of 1996, as product takes precedence

Warburg had tried, with insufficient resources, to take on the Wall Street behemoths, and. failed. A sharp appreciation of this same dilemma prompted Kleinwort Benson to agree to being taken over by Dresdner Bank, Germany's second largest. and Smith New Court to vanish

into Merrill Lynch of the US. This leaves a heavy question mark over the remaining City independents, like Schroders,

What followed were the rapidfire takeovers of some of the City's household names

Flemings and Rothschilds, They have received plenty of expressions of interest, not least from NatWest Group, which is keen to build up its corporate finance and fund management clout, but which has missed out spectacularly on all the main deals so far.

But the sizeable family stakes give these remaining merchant banks a strong defence, and they may well thrive as focused and nimble international players among the giants, as long as they keep their hubris — and costs —

under control.
Unlike Big Bang One, this has not been a top-down regu-lator's revolution, but rather one driven by the pressure of the street. It has been the year of Soon make such claims for Swiss Bank Corporation's the all-singing, all dancing frankeover of Warburgs. The securities side, which is what SBC was really after, is thriving. But the all-singing, all dancing frankeover of Warburgs. The securities side, which is what SBC was really after, is thriving. But the all-singing, all dancing frankeover of Warburgs. The securities side, which is what SBC was not just been in more capital of Europe. For a traumas, as the year close City appeared to be first vestment banking. In the retail

been merging across tradition-al boundaries, looking for size, clients and distribution, and the ability to offer products spanning banking, investment, ensions and insurance.

Lloyds Bank's takeover first of Cheltenham & Gloucester building society and then TSB bank was the sharpest pointer to the shape of things to come. Abbey National's hostile grapple for National & Provincial left all building societies, for so long cosseted in a world of tradition and mutuality, feeling vulnerable. Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich are expected in the New Year to abandon mutuality, converting to bank status in order to prepare for growth, while Prudential, is to move

the insurance sector, appears headed in a similar direction. The composites, led by Sun Alliance and Commercial Union, are also eyeing each other, but too many big egos are blocking the merger pathway. Perhaps, if the Lloyd's of London cloud of uncertainty hanging over the insurance sector is lifted by a settlement in the spring, then one of the giant Continental insurers, like Allianz or Axa, will finally make

the long expected move, setting the acquisition train rolling. Even the Japanese are back darkening the doors of City merchant banks with questions about picking up fund man-agement businesses. The sale of Gartmore, almost certainly to a foreign house, is to be com-pleted in the New Year and will not be the last.

The year 1995 in the City has narked by foreign invasion. But at least the surge of inward investment confirmed London's position as the world's most international financial centre, and the undisputed financial capital of Europe. For all the traumas, as the year closed, the City appeared to be thriving as

Forte restaurant sale could thwart bid

MATHEW HORSMAN and JOHN SHEPHERD

Granada is set to come under intense pressure this week, as its bid target, Forte, pushes ahead with plans to sell off its restaurant business to Whitbread, the food and drink giant, for nearly £1bn.

The sale, which insiders at Forte yesterday confirmed could come within two weeks, has emerged as the key plank in Forte's controversial defence against Granada's unwanted £3.3bn bid.

A deal with Whitbread could complicate the Forte bid situation dramatically. Any sale 39 of the bid period, after which fresh financial details cannot be published. It is also possible that Granada may ask the Takeover Panel to intervene.

last night. A spokesman sug-gested that "this might not be the best time to be selling assets. where your arm is twisted behind your back". He said, however, that the company would wait for further details on the proposed sale.

Granada had planned to keep the restaurant business. Forte operates 26 roadside service sites, branded as Welcome Break, and a network of 55 sites in France, under the Cote France brand.

If a deal with Whitbread is reached, Granada will have to

would leave it with its hotel operations, had been given a mixed reaction in the City. But analysis concede the demerger plan is clever, as it could remove from the equation the very as-sets—namely the restaurants— that attracted Granada's attention in the first place.

A sale of the restaurant oplargely made up of the Happy erations would substantially re-Eater and Little Chef chains. duce Forte's debts. The company is also working on disposing of its chain of White Hart hotels, and last week confirmed the sale of its US Travelodge hotels for £114m.

Granada's offer has been would have to be put to shareholders, and that might not be
hold their authorisation, and grounds that the Forte assers
possible before the crucial day choose instead to accept the had been badly managed, and television and lessure company's that Granada could release hostile bid. But for that to hap shareholder value: He and his pen, Granada is likely to have executives have promised to imto up its offer, perhaps by as prove Forte sprofits by £100m

y sought to Cantona in N week prison \$

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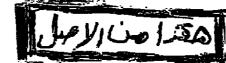
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Figure 1

Towns to the stage of



THE REAL PROPERTY.

From seaguils and trawlers to 57 old farts and Neanderthal Man. Rob McLean trawls through the sports quotes of 1995

The year of the sardine



'When seagulls follow a trawler it is because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea' -Eric Cantona in March, after winning his appeal at Croydon Magistrates Court against a six-week prison sentence following his conviction for assault Photographs: PA

He wants to keep people guess- I would not change anything, manager, on the crowd riot at the ing because he thinks he is bet- nothing at all. I am not always match against England in Dublin. striker accused some Millwall ter than everyone else. Basically in sea terms, he is saying he is bigger than the average sardine.
Raj Persaud, psychologist.

It's a red herring, if you will ex- with people who are not happy cuse the expression. Zebin Bojko, a leading ángling writer. It was one of the most amazing things I have ever seen on a football ground. It does not matter how you are provoked by the crowd, whatever language is ing Cantona.
used to you, you have to be I am very worried. There is alabove it. It is unbelievable and ways a potential John Lennon

inexcusable. Gary Lineker, for-

mer England captain, on Can-tona's kung-fu kick. It nearly always happens when al Footballers Association he has decided he has been chief executive, after a Millwronged and the referee is domg nothing about it. Then he re- threatened the Sheffield Wednessolves to exact his own justice, day goalkeeper. which is madness of course. It was simply a typing error.

Alex Ferguson, Cantona's Carlisle United spokesman. manager at Manchester United. Eric's problems can only be solved by Eric. Bobby Charlton. The Cantona situation cost us ous. the double that got away

He has lit up my football watching and that's what if is all about. I would pay to go and watch

I would have cut off his testicles.

It's my nature to react the way I do. It's an instinct and to hell

Genius is about digging yourself out of this big hole which you ers have put you. That's genius. Genius is not about complain-

ways a potential John Lennon assassin-type out there somewhere, and you fear the worst. Gordon Taylor, Profession-

after the club's Information Line gave the advice: "When giving oral sex, don't blow. It can be danger-

everything. Rerguson reflects on Perhaps I shouldn't have got involved, but we have a few wild ones, and when I saw this guy running at the English supporters with something in his hand, I grabbed him and told him to piss off. Jack Charl-

pleased with myself, but that's I went in and got hold of him, the way I am. Cantona.

I went in and got hold of him, but when there's spittle running down the side of your face it's hard not to want to do something about it. Graham Taylor, then Wolves manager, who was spat at by a fan in a match against Sheffield United.

linesman seemed deaf. Diego



He put me here to help quiet while I'm talking'

Club, sent off after throwing a water bag at an official. The man is obviously a few it caused our chib a lot of anxfans of being racist.

What happened on Sunday was an ordinary story of hate among teenage brais. Jean-Claude Bras, president of French side Red Star. on the murder of a fan in Paris. I want the chance to prove I'm not Neanderthal Man, just a find yourself in, or in which oth- I threw the water because the man who wants a second chance. John Sitton, the sacked



Leyton Orient manager who was Maradona, then coach of Racing portrayed as a foul-mouthed

coach in a TV documentary. Call the supervisor, please, I've got a big beef. Jeff Tarango, sandwiches short of a picnic and American tennis player, starts his tirade against umpire Bruno

You are the most corrupt offi-cial in the game. Tarango to Re-ter a fight with Chris Eubank three beuh prior to being disqualified. I feel like a victim. That is probably the word I would use...used and abused. I go to the chiropractor three times a week. He says I am so stressed out he can't even turn my neck.

I can't believe he did that at Wimbledon. He may be in for a big vacation. John McEnroe

I was afraid for my life. He was wild. He was absolutely out of control. I was so frightened of this raging maniac. Eleanor Weinstein, McEnroe's neighbour in a New York apartment block, who had a row with the former Wimbledon champion about his monopolising the building's lift. What are you going to do about dre Agassi after being confronted by a fan at the Hamburg

You have to go to war and in war you have to be prepared to die. That's what boxing is. Gerald McClellan, before his WBC super middleweight fight with Nigel Benn, which resulted in brain surgery for McClellan. I felt sick. A cold shiver ran

through me. I just wanted to get

'Lomu is a freak'

THE OVAL REVOLUTION

Everyone seems to do very well out of rugby except the of Newcastle United FC, players. It has become more who took over the city's rugthan a fun game. You do not have a World Cup for fun. If the game is run properly as a professional game, you do not an Moore, former England need 57 old farts running rug-hooker. by. Will Carling on the Rugby Football Union, remarks which

resulted in his temporary sacking as captain of England. Personally I took no objection to being called an old fart, but as England captain he should know how to behave. Denis Easby, RFU president, who sacked Carling.

I'm disgusted, I can't quite take it in. What Will said was simply what an awful lot of people think about the guys running the game. Dick Best, former England coach.

The decision has been made, I the World Cup started. Jack stand by it - and there is no Rowell, England manager, on chance whatsover that it will be Jonah Lomu, the New Zealand reversed. Eashy.
It is feasible that he could be giv-

en back his captaincy. Easty, on He's a freak – and the sooner reinstating Carling three he goes away the better. Car-

He's on a big ego trip with no consideration for English rugby at all. Brian Hanlon, coaching director of Bristol, on Sir John Hall, chairman by union club.

Playing against the French is like facing 15 Eric Cantonas. Bri-

I used to hate watching rugby league on television. It was violent, slow and just dreadful. We all thought it was a joke sport.

Martin Offiah, Great Britain's winger who used to play rugby union.

I'm 49, I've had a brain haemorrhage and a triple bypass and I could still go out and play a reasonable game of rugby uni-ion...but I wouldn't last 30 seconds in rugby league. Graham Lowe, former Wigan coach. Someone from rugby league should have bought him before

player who ended England's World Cup hopes.

'The nightmare will never fade'

WOMEN'S

The nightmare will never fade. My scream is what stayed with me a long time. It was eating me alive. I'd go out on the court. I could be playing great tennis and it would all start I said to the owners, the Johncoming back. I'd say 'I can't do this'. Monica Seles, a few days before her return to tennis after box for me. I'm the man who 27 months in an exhibition match against Martina

Navratilova. I still can't believe I'm actually doing this and I'm actually here. It's like a dream. It's so exciting. It's what I love to do, it's I'm not fat. I know that I'm not all I've ever asked for. Seles on conduct, I could name so many her return.

team who have been bribed to the point just right, you have the lose matches. Aamir Sohail, open-court volley you would make with your eyes closed 10 ners, I'm not in that mould. Liz years ago, and I'm concentrat- McColgan, the British athlete, is has brought me to tears. He is ing like hell and I still miss it. not fat - it's official. Women shouldn't keep blam- metres. Sally Gunnell gets

viewers. Sharron Davies, TV gladiator and former Olympic swimmer. I am and always will be a

more support from women

staunch supporter of doping controls in sport. Diane Modahl, a positive doping test.

sons, they'd be mad to run this horse in the National. He's been a nightmare to train. If any horse in the yard has problems. nine times out of 10 it's Alfie, as Royal Athlete is known. Jenny Pitman, after Royal Athlete's victory in the Grand Na-

fat. If I look at any Joe Bloggs walking down the street, I know players in the present Pakistan

Getting old sucks. You set up
team who have been bribed to
the point just right, you have the
But in terms of the skin and bone athlete, the distance run-

Literally, she died in the last 50 ing the men for the state of carried away with Australian women's sport. Men aren't Cathy Freeman's poor finish in trying to hold us back, the fact the 400m final at the World is sportswomen need more Championshins in Gothenhuro.

'I'm an alcoholic. My life was going nowhere

BUNGS, DRUGS AND SLEAZE

Yes, I was stupid - yes, I was know why I feel like the man greedy. If it was offered me who shot Bambi. Rick Purry, again I would definitely say 'no, chief executive of the Premier peats it. Clough, talking about no, no'. George Graham, former League, puts Graham on the Alan Sugar's High Court allega-Arsenal manager, on the John Jensen transfer bung scandal. Graham accepted the money then repaid it. It's just a question of determining intent: what

telephone he was chuntering on If an employee of a football club about a problem with a work commits a financial irregularipermit. Brian Clough denies any ty then they should be sacked involvement with Rune Hauge, the and that club should be pun-

Jensen affair. There may be a fair bit of pain to go through yet and I don't big enough and gets a bloody know why I feel like the man shave and doesn't walk like a

spiv, then I'll sue him if he retions that he took a "bung" dur-I've never met the agent. The ing the Teddy Sheringham only time I spoke to him on the transfer deal.

Danish agent involved in the ished, as we were in 1990 when reduce the debt to sensible lev- I'll guarantee you now that if the we were relegated. But it is clear there is one rule for the bigger. richer clubs and a different one for the smaller ones. Ray I've started to grow up now. I've Hardman, Swindon Town chair-

> He refused to let the players go to bed if he was losing money during a late-night gambling session. One time he owed me around £400 or so. He desperately wanted to play one-card turnovers for £230 a shot. I began stacking winning hands to

England striker, remembers Peter Shilton's gambling problems. got the choice of going back to the booze and gambling or to go the other way. It's up to me now. I am an alcoholic. My life was going nowhere. Paul Merson, the Arsenal footballer faces up to the future after six weeks in a rehabilitation clinic for treat-ment for alcohol and gambling ad-

Rugby League went and tested els. Malcolm Macdonald, former 10 players from each team playing at the moment, they would find it very hard to get full sides out in the field. Blind eyes have been turned everywhere. Iamie Bloem, Doncaster full-back who steroids and banned for two years. I've heard that there are twowell known footballers - nothing to do with West Ham or Everton - who have not been

years ago, on the same fight.

I can't take any more, I just

can't. When I get this season

over, that's it for me. I'm fin-

ished. You are not just fighting the American athletes, you

have got to fight inside your own

camp as well. Linford

People who hide behind buses

snow. Then there are character

Tyson has no real choice but to

made him \$16m in the last two

fights when he wasn't even

champion. How else is he go-

ing to pay for more Lam-

borghinis and Cadillacs? By

going to college? Don King.
If I wasn't bound by a code of

This is the first time a referee

incompetent and negligent. I

asked him to move from the line

of sight and he wouldn't. Alex

Higgins, after tosing 10-5 in the qualifying stages for snooker's Embassy World Championship.

Pakistan Test batsman.

killers. Mike Tyson.

when you jump out into the

sins in the world.

cial drugs'. Tony Cottee, West Eric Hall, Dennis Wise's agent Ham striker. Eric Hall, Dennis Wise's agent reacting to the news of the Chelset It must have been a misunderstanding; or if not a genuine misunderstanding, a trap. Diego Maradona reaffirms his innocence of deliberately taking drugs at the 1994 World Cup.

The mistake I made was not getting the hell out of the hotel bar about two hours earlier than I did and going straight to bed.
Finnie Jones, in trouble after biting the nose of a journalist.

tence for assaulting a taxi driver. Leave my hero alone. Eric Hall to photographers as Wise left court after being sentenced.

I have spoken to many taxi drivers and the majority are saying they will not pick him up. Bob Oddy, general secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers Association I could have been a bank robber if it hadn't been for football.

'I think he made a bit of a prat of himself'

THE VERBALS

person. Damon Hill on Michael

It was dangerous and unsport-ing. I think be did it deliberately and if he does it again I know what to do. Schumacher attacks Hill for dangerous driving at the French Grand Prix. It's total hypocrisy. There is one rule for him and another for the

rest of us. Hill on Schumacher after the Pacific Grand Prix. It is difficult because he is too moody and I have problems with moody people. But it would be a great gesture for the German fans to be fair to Hill and appland him. Schumacher on Hill before the German

Grand Prix. I think he made a bit of a prat of himself. Frank Williams, # Williams-Renault team boss, on at the British Grand Prix. Two top drivers in the same chairman Ken Bates.

prospect of teaming up with Nigel Bates.

Mansell. He is a product rather than a He is wet behind the ears. He Ken Bates, and Fil still be a fan

I don't give a damn about be-

no redeeming features. Bo

team rarely pays off. They get After what has gone on, what uno fights on and off the track. has been said, I cannot see how They hide information from we can continue to work toeach other and this hinders the gether. He has been mee to my If The Poms Bat First, Tell The Elleray.

face but said unpleasant things about me behind my back.

tion, but are you aware that your shorts are slightly transparent? Reporter to Andre Agassi.

Manchester United not only have the best players, they have the best referees as well. Sam demonstrated over the two Hammam, Wimbledon chairyears he has been here. Put it man, after his club were beaten by I almost wanted Howard

Wilkinson's team relegated because of their fans. I don't think Leeds deserve to be in the Premier League. You can feel the hatred, their fans were awful. Alex Ferguson, Manchester

If you want to lose your life that's up to you. Chris Eubank warns Steve Collins before their



He sent me off in his usual Hitler fashion. He's a dreadful referee who is typical of the standard we have faced all season.' Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, sent off

Taxi To Wait. Bannerat the third Test in Sydney. I'm responsible for my actions. Tim Henman, after being disqualified for hitting a ball girl with a ball. If I'd done that at Wimbledon

He's supposed to be one of our best, and he should be there for players to talk to, not to be a lit-Je Hitler. Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, on referee David

you need to be happy?' GUYS

I watched the ball go over in disbelief. Rob Andrew on the kick that beat Australia in the World Cup quarter-final.

I had to come up with some-

thing, I owed the lads one after putting South Africa into bat and seeing that move not work out. Michael Atherton, after his innings of nearly 11 hours which saved the second Test against South Africa.

I'll remember it for a long, long time, and I'm going to get pissed. Tomorrow we're visiting a vineyard, so I'll probably get pissed again. Atherton, after England's first Test victory in Australia for eight years.

If any of my opponents had done what I did today I would

have thought they were on drugs. Jonathan Edwards after breaking the world triple jump record twice at the World Cham-

I don't know if I was all that good. I never saw myself play, so how do I know? Sir Stanley Matthews, who celebrated his 80th birthday this year.

I won't be a pawn in the hands a footballer. It's ridiculous. It's of business or government; I'm as far removed as me being a vaccinated and immune to corconcert planist. Jimmy Greaves. ruption. Pele, the newly sworn-in Minister of Sports, who remem-bered that in 1972 the military bered that in 1972 the military Ginger McCain, horse trainer, on government wanted to use his image in a football tournament to gain popular support for the food who died this year.

'How much money do

People will say I have a screw loose, that I've lost it, but perhaps it's just that I am in the 0.1 per cent of footballers who doesn't give a toss about un-limited money. Matthew Le Tissier, explains why he stays at Southampton. It doesn't look like I try very

Tissier speculates on why he is being left out of the England squad. I simply wasn't prepared to commit myself for seven days a week. In any walk of life people want more leisure time. Kenny Dalglish, who stepped down as Blackburn Rovers man-

I'm as patriotic as the next man but I fear they could be em-barrassed. Sir Bobby Charlton worries about England's chances

If anyone could be Michael Jordan for a day, they'd see it's not all it is cracked up to be. I can never be a normal person. Michael Jordan, basketball player and probably the most fa-mous sporting figure in the the United States.

It brings to an end the most re-markable era in horse racing.

I had 13,000 people supporting me today. That's what won me the match. Britain's Greg Rusedski after his four-set victory over the No 16 seed Guy Forget, of France.

Those who knock darts think it's easy. Try throwing for double top when your mortgage de-pends on it. Rod Harrington, at the WDC Championship. I learned about the risks early on. My dad was always going to

funerals. Damon Hill, Formula One driver. The longest three minutes I've



want him working for England.' Denis Silk, the Test and County Cricket Board chairman, backing the former England Test all-

Council heavyweight title win over Oliver McCall. My head looks like ET gone wrong. Bruno after the fight. I had four doughnuts on eight and a chocolate chip muffin on 10. I've got more addictions now than when I was drinking. John Daly, the Open champion who is suffering migraines since he gave-up drinking more than two years

ago. I'm tired of the struggle to maintain my riding weight. I will miss riding but you simply can't ever known. Frank Bruno on the go on forever. Lester Piggott rides

Hill's collision with Schumacher

progress of a team. Schumacher, then Benetton No 1, on the

is not a businessman in the ac- 20 years after be has gone. cepted sense of the word. I once Harding. thought we were the dream tick- I can't tell you what's going on ct. I saw him as my successor but in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, Chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bales, chelsea in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. The man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore in t of the club, director Matthew

ing chairman. All I know is at No, but apparently you are. the moment we have the wrong chairman. Harding.
I can forgive one lapse, but not the kind of behaviour he has

this way - Matthew Harding has Ive been watching Chelsea from outside the director's box for 31 of the last 33 years, so it's hardly going to kill me. I have 12 season tickets in the front row of the upper tier. Harding, banned from the directors' box by

world title fight.



by Robbie Hart against Manchester United.

I would have been jailed. John McEnroe on the Henman inci-

hard to get the ball back. Le

in Euro 96.

I can't even imagine now being final round of his World Boxing into the sunset.

Dublin can dash grey expectation

King George VI Chase - after the Desert Orchid years, it seems as much a part of Christmas as dyspepsia and hangovers, and although One Man may still have a great deal to prove, as he gallops to post for his first King George this afternoon, the parallels with his famous predecessor go further than colour and style. At seven, he is the same age as Desert Orchid when he first won the race in 1986, and with such youth and in the second half of last season talent on his side. One Man could yet become a fixture to match.

First, of course, he needs to win today, and inspection of the field lined up against him is conclusive proof that celebrities need luck as well as talent. Desert Orchid's good fortune was to be the outstanding chaser of a generally disappointing era, and it must be doubtful whether even one of his four Boxing Day victories was be a 2-1 chance. The value, achieved against such a strong hand of rivals. Barton Bank. and more specifically with one Merry Gale. Dublin Flyer and last year's (albeit fortunate) winner. Algan, are serious dangers, while success for Val D'Alene, Coulton or Brief Gale would hardly qualify as a major surprise.

Which begs the question, just how good is One Man? The answer is a little more vague than you might expect of a 2-1 favourite in one of the year's most prestigious races. His most recent success, in the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock, was undeniably impressive, but remarkably this was his first out-ing outside handicap company since his novice days, and even then he was getting weight from the runner-up. Monsieur Le

KEMPTON

12.45 River North

HYPERION

PRECAUTIONARY INSPECTION: 6.30mm

GOLVO: Soft

[Gallerin-hand course, fractically that Runsin of 200yd.

[Gallerin-hand course, fractically that Runsin of 200yd.

[Gallerin-hand course, as on AV08 at Sumbury Bus link from Richmond Underground station. ADMISSION: Club 521. January 16 to 27-year-olds) \$16; Grandwand \$15. Silver Ring \$7.
Accompanied children under-16 free, CAR PARK: Members' car park \$5 (limited and
must be pre-basked). Centre car park free.

TLEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: N Benderson - 17 winners from 65 minners gives a success ratio of 26.2% and a profit to a \$1 level stakes of \$13.36; M Pipe - 14 winners, 10.2%, 4522 St; J Gifford - 14 winners, 94 minners, 14.3%, \$10.12; D Nicholson - 12 winners, 14 miners, 19.7%, \$25.5 fb;

ELEADING JOCKEYS: J Usburne - 25 winners, 126 rides, 19.8%, \$11.00; R Dunwoody - 22 winners, 10.4 rides, 21.2%, \$21.8 m M Fitzgerald - 18 winners, 62 rides, 21%, 4510.86; A Magaller - 12 winners, 82 rides, 14.7%, \$2.20;

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

12.45 BONUSPOST NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) C4

FORM GUIDE

This teatures the hurding debut of **RIVER NORTH**, who was distinctly smart on the Flat and

This restures the hurding debut of RIVER NORTH, who was distinctly smart on the Flat and fice already had backing for the Champion Hurdle. Trained by Lady Herries, who won with purping destulant. Senous at Uttoverer recently, River North landed a listed event at Newmarks and Group One in Germany in 1994, white his scored five times the previous year, including the Scotish Classic at Air. He acts well in soft ground, with larve been schooled for this and Richard Durwoody is blooked for the ride. Shankar, who went in at Newtury out month on his reappearance and was beaten a couple of lengths by Zepthyrus at Chellonham, looks the book of times with jumping exponence. Tageline was having his first non-set forcum when defeating theight Mill thos lengths at Humpigton (good to soft) and should projess in a remain which also abaties to Indefence, third to Crown Equency at Haydook or his high stan so fair Master Boreled, a miley on the level, won his first two roses this specific and was group, 1215 to the winter when a five-legach number up behind Mack. The

1.15 TRIPLEPRINT FELTHAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £35,000 added 3m Penalty Value C4

a relinder rive tennes out, so har boot amost the same catuatie hardcap at Auteui in tenorer that subhernale Vall DiAlere with last year, and the softer the ground the better for Francius Doumen's numer. Winning point-to-pointer for Mulligan fell on his fencing debut less season, but, his confidence restored by two easy wars over hundles, came home by a distinct of J. Bangor last month, the will find this optivistion at lastify deferred proposition. Feel Tax Power, winner of an Ingh point in 1994, was suppossed at Newbury 13 months.

Age to the resident minimal or all incomposed in Larger, was successful at Newborn 13 months age to the only and one timper. Kin Balley's Section-washed has the make and shape of a shape point astronger he has been thrown in at the deep end here.

1.45 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m Penalty Value £7,133

5 5(2)-50 AMANCIO (39) (D) (Pol H Lode, G Parasot 4 11 4 MP Parasot 10 250-305 ALBERTALE (10) (D) (BF) (George Ward, Mrs J Cecil 5 11 0 TRent

SETTIME: 7-4 Cherg's Lad, 5-1 Growing, 10-1 Bookease, 12-1 Albernine, Neep No in Mind, Non Sintage, 14-1 Otto Maita, 16-1 Fourth in Line, Nemeste, Shoofit, Solmah, 20-1 others 1994; Trans Again 8-10-0 J Genome 10-1 no Garcallo, 8 rev.

FORM GUIDE

Growing comes here with a 100 per cent record, going in at Fondiel and Ayr last term and on a return to the Susser track on his reappearance. He should confirm that lates, four such it included Namaste, who has an 11th advantage for an 11th-length beating. Proces better still to come from Josh Giffords number and he is the main threat to CHERTLES.

1796 is Depersuin to come from joint unions a runnal second easily at Fakenham and LAD. The selection is embersen in two attempts this term, scoring easily at Fakenham and reviewing up with a combination Chellennam success (**Oline Malta** and **Fourth in Line both**

- F-3* DORFFORGE INSIGHT (21) flert Neil C Brooks 4 11 5

- CG-L YAGGAN (21) (D) P-45 mel (2-27-ex) (6 find 5 11 5

- S INDEFENCE (17) -Indet Limiter: Mes J Perran - 11 5

- T STILL MASTER BEWELED (17) (D) (24% E 1/48 mes P D Borns 5 11 5

- RIVER MORTH P D Soult (acy Herns 5 11 5

- B doclared
EETIING: 2-1 River North, 3-1 Stankar, 9-2 Master Baveled, 5-1 1ggms, 8Indefence, 33-1 Brazil Or Bunt, 100-1 Dontfruger baseled

1934: The Is Equirame 4-11 0 M Fuzzieros (20-1 (N Hernscrotn 11 cm

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

2.20 Val D'Alene

3.20 SESAME SEED (nap)

A dashing grey favourite in the **Greg Wood** tips a fearless iumper to topple the King George favourite

> In his previous race, at Ayr, One Man beat Jodami, the 1993 Gold Cup winner, by seven lengths, but received 16lb, making Jodami, who may well be a declining force, the better horse at the weights. His form was hardly encouraging, either, with falls in two big races (including the Racing Post Chase over today's course and dis-tance) following his Hennessy victory, achieved under bot-

tom weight of 10 stone. This is not to deny that One Man is an improved performer this season, nor that his chance this afternoon is significant. On the balance of his form, however, he does not deserve to therefore, must lie elsewhere, of his three main rivals at the top of the market.

Barton Bank is hard to support with confidence after his last-fence disaster 12 months ago, which leaves Merry Gale and Dublin Flyer. Either should provide a good run for your money, but since he is at least twice the price of the other leading contenders, DUBLIN FLY-ER (nap 2.20), a 10-1 chance with William Hill, demands

His courageous performance when winning the Mackeson Gold Cup under 11st 8lb was perhaps the most impressive of the season so far, and he will concede to nothing in terms of bravery at least. Dublin Flyer's fast and impeccable jumping in the novice chase.

might also coax mistakes from several opponents and his odds seriously underestimate his

Novices provide the major points of interest on the imdercard, with the opening hurdle in particular pitting some useful performers against highclass recruits from the Flat. River North, a Group One winner on the level, is already a 20-1 chance for the Champion Hurdle in March, but for once it is difficult to mock the bookmakers' caution. Royal Gait and Alderbrook have both graduated from the Flat to beat the best over timber in recent seasons, and the former made his hurdling debut in today's

He did not win, however - he finished second to Travado and River North could be forgiven for needing time to adjust to a new discipline. The splendidly-named 'lggins (12.45) could make it a difficult intro-

An exceptional field for the

Feltham Novices' Chase includes Major Summit, Mr Mulligan and Master Orchestra. whose brother is the King George absentee and Gold Cup hope Book Of Music, but Hill Of Tullow (1.15) looks best of all. Cheryl's Lad (1.45) will be no sort of price but is hard to oppose in the handicap hurdle, while Simple Arithmetic (next best 2.50) stands out in the Wayward Lad Novices' Chase.

The feature event in the north is the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase at Wetherby, with Jodami and Young Hustler among the entries. At the weights, though. Lo Stregone (2.20) has every chance, as does his stablemate Ask Tom (2.50)

soundly beaten). Cheryl's Lad looks likely to get even better and a hat-trick is on the cards. Non Vintage, after beating Subirme Fellow four lengths at Ascot (Shoofk, Kingsfold Pet end Altrancio all well beaten) ran an excellent race from 2-lib outside the handicap when going under half a length and the same behind Padre Mo and Chef Minister in the Fighing Fifth at Newcastle. He finished tasted off in the Long Walk Hurdle on a return to Ascot (3m II 110)ds) but will be happer back at this minimum trip. Bookcase got up on the post to pip Meep Me in Milind at Deber and there should again be III'de between them at a difference of a pound, Both should have nothing to fear from Secretary of State libeaten 40 lengths in seventh). Bookcase earlier had Albertaline isswenth) and keep Me in Milind in arrears when timu to Chief's Sorig in the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown and might not be for away.

00-3122 EGYPT MILL PRINCE (25) (BF) (5 R Webb) Mrs J Pitman 9 11 10 .

11 5/23112- BREEF GALE (248) (C) (Mrs Came Zetter-Wess) | Giffort 8 11 5

1241-21 MERRY GALE (31) (Herb M. Startley J. Dreaper (40 7 11 10 ______ 4163-62 MONSTEUR LE CURE (17) (CD) (Hector H Brown J Edwards 9 11 10 ____

9 11UF-11 ONE MAIN (17) (0) U Heles) 6 Richards 7 11 10 R Doom 10 25-23F3 VAL D'ALENE (23) (CD) (Marc de Mondor) F Doumen (Fr) 8 11 10 A Ric

BETTING: 2-1 One Man, 3-1 Barton Bank, 7-2 Merry Gale, 8-1 Dublin Pyer, 9-1 Val D'Alone, 11-1 Aigan, 20-1 Mousieur La Core, 25-1 Brief Gale, Coulton, 50-1 Egypt MIII Prince 1994: Algan 6 11 10 P Chevaler 16-1 (F Doumer, France) 9 zen

1994: Algan 6 11 10 P Cheaties 16-1 (F Doumen, France) 9 an FORM GIDDE

This is one for the chasing connoisseur and MERRY GALE is taken to become the first instichallenger to win it since Captain Christy (1975), with One Main and Barton Bank the dangers. The selection usually likes to force the pace, so should be suited by this sharp track. I'm Dreaper's runner won the Punchestown Chase for the second year running when 10 lengths too good for King Of The Gales lest month and he gained a most impressive victory over Martomick at Aintree in April when Barton Bank went off the 2-1 favourite but ran way below his best to finish a distant sorth, Merry Gale failed to lest home when a 34-length fourth in the Gold Cup with Barton Bank a faller five out and the French pain, Algan (where of this event a year ago), and stable-mate Vall D'Allence, both unseating they index. The litish hope looked better than ever last time and, with Richard Dunwoody, who was on board then, isaming up with One Main this time, Graham Bradley, who note Merry Gale to victory at Aintree and knows him just as well, is back on board. Dunwoody, who won this twice on Desert Orchid, teams up with One Main, representing Gordon Richards, who was successful in the race with the Stan Mellor-partnered Titus Oates in 1969. One Man has now both his races this season handsomely and he should certainly confirm latest Haydock nan-

cessful in the race with the Stan Mellor-partnered Titus Dates in 1969. One Man has won both his races this season handsomely and he should certainly continn latest Haydock running with Monadeur Le Cure, who was the 12-length runner-up and is only 4th better in. Having said that, Monadeur Le Cure will appreciate the cut in the ground and has attracted recent support. Barrior Bank, who win this in 1993, heal tast year's event sewn up only to blunder badly and unship Adhan Maguire at the last, leaving Algan to beat Monadeur Le Cure two and a half lengths. The former international eventer comy Etiot has helped to non out his jumping problems and he fenced well when winning easily from Young Huster in the Chartie Hall Pattern Chase at Wetherby last month — a race he would have two except for failure last season. Alean and Val D'Alene, who represent Frances Do ment, also evenced.

halling last season. Algan and Val D'Alene, who represent François Doumen - also successful with Nupsale (1987), and The Fellow (1992) and 1992) - will both like the ground. This will be by far Dublin Riyer's stiffest task to date and, although he urms brithanny and is surcomba.

more report and or are one renow 1393, and 1992! - will both like the ground. This will be by far Dublin Figure's stiffest task to date and, eithough he jumps britantly and is supremely game. Ifm forsite's charge may not be good enough. He should, however, confirm Mackeson running with Egypt MRI Prince, who was beaten half a length (Coulton seventh) and is 13th worse off at the weights now.

Selection: MERRY GALE.

2.50 BONUSPHOTO WAYWARD LAD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £20,000 added 2m 4f 110yds C4

Penalty Value £14.135

or, was going neal a writer only to locule was this but in Coppier in require state at Chi-rectuam. He noticed us at Utbroker and was in front when he fell at the last against ASI. Tom at Hotingham, Fahrnouth Bary bast Mr Phispoclett trees quarters of a length when both were making their chasing debuts at Tauston and, attrough 4th worse off, had a bit in hand that day and should confirm scaremacy even though the timer-up was in a clear lead when carried out at Exeter next time. Sample Arithmetic will have greatly benefited from his first chase when third to Centerly Strong at Sandown Selection: CALLISOE BAY.

3.20 BONUSFILM HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £7,328

2-131.3 STRUMBERMY ANGEL (10) Was were V Moors C Gross 4 12 0 Blyton Mills 303-710 BELL STAFFROW (18) for W Bell & Son (2r C Gross 5 12 10 W Marrier PROCESS PRACES AND A CONTROL (18) for W Bell & Son (2r C Gross 5 12 10 D C Souther PROCESS PROCES

8 901-95 ENSOU (III) (10 5 & W. V. Rose & New York & 10 5 M. A Rosensk 10 11 11 5 M. A Rosensk 10 114-15 M. A Rosensk 110 114-15

Historium weight 1(st. True remoteur weight Gegen um St. 125)
BETTING: 5-2 Father Sky. 4-1 Sesome Seed, 8-1 Menthell, Plumder Boy, Strawberry Angel, 12-1 Angele's Double, Bell Staffboy, Lucky Blue, Sabdé River, 14-1 Desmond Celd, Pragada, 16-1 others 1954; Not. The Beat 5 10 5 / Outcome 3-1 of Lance: 5 comments.

KING GEORGE VI TRIPLEPRINT CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £100,000 added 3m Penalty Value



Dublin Flyer's courageous jumping may coax mistakes from his King George rivals

Photograph: Ed Byrne

Kempton inspect

off due to frost and snow and Kempton's card has been put under threat by a worsening weather forecast

We have had bit of rain but the going is still soft - the only thing that has changed is the forecast," Michael Webster, the clerk of the course.

"In view of forecast temperatures of minus six degrees Celcius, there will be a precau-

Today's meetings at Ayr and sedgefield have been called The inspection is timed s The inspection is timed so that the result can go out on the first racing bulletin on Radio 5 Live at 6.55."

Hereford's meeting is also subject to a precautionary inspection at 7.30am because the forecast is for frost.

Edinburgh's card tomorrow is also in doubt. "The course has frost and snow and an inspection will be held at 9am on Boxing Day," the course's manager, Mark Kershaw, said.

						-2-3				
KING GEOR	ξĚ	, V.)	CI	A:	\$ E>	10	Y E	AR	-TA	ŁE
. 100.00 100.1100	1985	86	87				gi.			
Fate of the favourities:	.4	4.	. 5 ·	·1	1	1.	<u>3.</u>	<u>1.</u>	3	<u> </u>
Winner's place in betting	0	0_	0	.1	. 1	1.	.0:	1	21	0
Starting-prices:	12-1	16-1	25-1	1-2	4-6	94	10-1	el	92	16-1
Aglesia:	10	: 7:	8	9.	10	.: <u>11</u> ,	8	7	. <u>Z</u>	6
Profit or loss to £1. state	× Fa	Nour!	es -£1	.58.	- Sac	ood P	rycan fil	865 <u>–</u> £	7.25	
Percentage of winners p	2000	1st, :	2nd or	316	n leşt	FRCS:	60%	=:		: -
Shortest-priced Wisner: 1)eser	t Orch	d 1-2 (1961	9	: ;	7	ጌ :		

ongest-priced winner. Nupsela 25-1 (1987) op trainen: F Doumen - Noosala (1987), The Fellow (1991, 1992), Algan (1994), D Eleworth - Desert Orchits (1985, 1988, 1989, 1990) Top juckeys: S Sherwood - Desert Orchid (1986, 1988) R Durwoody - Desart Orchol (1989, 1990)

ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE

BETTUNE: 7-2 Golden Helio, 4-1 Sweet Migamente, 8-1 Aljudeer, 7-1 Fourth In Line, 8-1 Blackpatch Hill, Native Field, 19-1 others

| CLASS B| E25,000 added 3m 110yds | 110yds | 110yds | 110yds | 110yds | 110yds | 120_m | R Demondy | 1210_1 | R Demond | 120_m | R Demond |

Mahmum weight: 10st. True handkap weight: Carbicole 9st 13th. BETTING: 11-4 One Hen. 7-2 Jodans!, 4-1 Young Handler; 5-1 Mousleur Le Care, 7-1 Scotton Burks, 8-1 La Stragone, 10-1 Cagent, 12-1 others

2.50 BOROUGHBRIDGE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m

2 541/F-1 ASK TOM (19) (9) T Tate 6 11 9 Rearth
3 A71115 AMIGOS (290) J RicGeald 7 11 4 M Days
4 120/60-0 FEVE TO SEVEN (11) C Thomson 6 11 4 P Carbon

3.20 BORING DAY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 4f 110yds 1 214-213 TOW BROOME (20) 1 H Johnson 5 11 12 9 Beedles 2 214015 DESERT FIGHER (20) (CD) (BF) Mrs M Reviews (A) M Reviews (

longs, 5-4 Ask Tom, 4-1 Amigns, 25-1 Five

SETTIME: 11-10 Combring Chall To Seven

A Kondret - The Feskow (1991, 1992) Key: U = Linseated rider; 2I = Joint-second fevourite.

WETHERBY

12.50 Crackhiil Farm 1.20 Gnome's Tycoon 1.50 Frickley 2.20 Lo Stregone (nb) 2.50 Amigos 3.20 Tom Brodie

GOING: Good to Soft.

Lefs-hand oval elreuit. Run-in of 200yds slightly uphill.

Course is NE of town on Bilized or june of ASS and Al. ADMOSSON: Chis Sill (accompanied under-life free): Tattersails 57: Course
\$2 (OAP; \$1) (cars with up to 4 adults \$6). CAR PARE: Free.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DESTANCE RUNNERS: Fourth In Line (1.5)& Mousieur Le Cure (2.20) seut 174 miles by J Edwards from Sellack, Heref d.

12.50 CHRISTMAS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 addled 2m

223 SALHEROVICH (DAI) (BE) WIT EXEMPLY 5 US 12 12 CRECIPIED (CRECIPIED (CRECI

1.20 SUPERMASTER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 1512-6 MORCEL (SJ) (9) /H Johnson 7 11 1.3 _______ I. Wyer
P11F0 WARD FORCE (17) (C) (D) (G Richards 10 10 11 _____ N Bendley
2252-14 GROWE'S TYCOON (46) (CD) (H Johnson 9 10 6.0 P Carbony
1251-22 WALMAT WARROR (10) (0) M Hammond 7 10 6 ___ D Bendley
21-3-3-P STRONG SOUND (10) (CD) P Chesbrough 8 10 0 ___ C Manufe
_____ 6 doctored -______ 5 foctored for 10 foctored focto

Unimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Strong Sound 9st 5th. ETTING: 7-4 Geome's Tycoon, 2-1 Morcell, 5-2 Valient Wenton, 5-1 Wind one, 12-1 Strong Sound

1.50 ST JOHN AMBULANCE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 1 1110-34 SWEET MICHONETTE (59) (D) (BF) Mis M Resetty 7 12 0

8 0.50 ELA MAN HOWA (LO) N Tinker 4 10 8
9 0022/05 ALMANZAR (LD) N Telder 5 10 5
10 2060-SP THE GULLOPPYMAJOR (29 Mrs M Render 5 10 4 N Smith
11 P544 16 JUNEO SDR (86) Deep 5 10 2
12 000 LEAP IN THE DARK (10) Miss E Sidesh 6 10 0 C Mande
13 440-251 OWENS QUEST (84) 4CD) 7 Ethermon 5 10 0 _R Rounter (7)
14 0/00/ SCEPTICH (651) Giner 7 10 0 Collection (7)
15 PPO-DOU NO WORD (11) R Bastioner 8 10 0
16 POO-2 RESTER TRECK (33) Liurgh 5 10 0
16 PUU-2 MISHEN UMAN (30) LUURO 5 10 V
Minimum weight: 10st. True handkap weights: Dwars Quest 9st 12th, Scot-
deal Set 7th, No Word, Set 5th, Master Trick 8st 9th.
BETTING: 7-2 Tom Brodie, 4-1 Rye Crossing, 8-1 Owens Quest, Desert
Fighter, Ele Man Howa, 14-1 Circus Llob, Justice Star, 15-1 officers
Fighter, Pla Main Rosmi, 14-1 Circus Line, Justine Star, 15-1 others
Fighter, Ele Man Rows, 14-1 Circus Line, Joseph Star, 15-1 officers
12 130503 NEWER (243) M Pros 4 10 0 Miss 5 Victory
12 130503 TQBUTER (243) M Ppc 4 10 0 Miss \$ Vickery 13 11-3141 EVER SMBLE (62) (CD) M Ppc 8 10 0 0 Bitrous (7)
12 1.30503 RUMBER (200) M Pge 4 10 0
12 130503- 1050TR (243) M Ppe 4 1D 0 Miss \$ Vickery 13 11-3141 EVER SWELE (52) (CD) M Ppe 8 1D 0 0 9 Serous (7) 14 245530- SWINGEETS POWE (253) R O'SURER 5 1D 0.4 F Ryon (5) 15 121FLP PRONCE (CANAMER (26) 4 GROUND 10 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
12 130503- RESIDER (243) M Pipe 4 10 0
12 130503 RUBRIER (203) M Ppe 4 10 0
12 130503 TRINTER (243) M Ppc 4 10 0 Miss \$ Vickery 13 11-3141 EVER SMBLE (62) (CD) M Ppc 8 10 0 0 Bistrous (7) 14 246530 SMBGERS'S PORT (263) R O'SURGE 5 10 0 \$ Miss 15 12 12 12 \$ Miss 16 10 10 0 \$ Miss 16 10 10 767- TCP JAVALER (235) No 1 Review Borns 8 10 0 Appel (6) 17 125110 EVER (42) M Ppc 6 10 0 Seo Souther Miss 16 10 11 12 11 PRESIDE (42) M Ppc 6 10 0 Seo Souther Miss 16 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11
12 130503 RESIDER (243) M Pipe 4 10 0
12 1305:03 TGRITIR (243) M Ppc 4 10 0 Miss 3 Vickery 13 11-34.4 EVER SKRLE (62) (CD) M Ppc 8 10 0 0 Birrows (7) 14 2465:30 SUGGERTS POWT (263) R O'SURGER 5 10 0 6 F Ryon (8) 15 121:FLP FERNAL CHARMER (24) 4 GGM.10 10 0 5 Kickeri 16 16 10:FRS- ROP MANUR (238) MS 1 Revise Buron 8 10 0 .L Appell (5) 17 125:110 EUTE FESA (421 M Ppc 6 10 0 Red . Soptio Mischael (7) 18 111211 PRESIMAL GRAD (5) (7) M Ppc 6 10 0 Red . Soptio Mischael (7) 19 1130 PRESIMAL GRAD (5) (7) M Ppc 6 10 0 Red . Soptio Mischael (7) 19 1130 TGRAT ELABORET (39 R Davider 6 10 0 6 Soptio Figure 17)
12 130503 RESIDER (243) M Pipe 4 10 0

WINCANTON :

12.40 Lucia Forte 1.10 Smith's Band 1.40 Ever Smile 2.10 Gales Cavalier 2.45 The Carrot Man 3.15 General Tonic

Bight-hand, galloping course. Run-in of 200yd.
Course is NE of town on B3081. ADMISSRON: Members \$14
(Junior Members, 17 to 22 yrs, 57); Tatterath SD; Course (and cars
to course) \$4, (Under-)86 free all enclosures). CAR PARE: Free.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Preenks Girl (1:40) was at Lingfield on Wednesday.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Top Core (1:40) has been sent 266 miles by Mrs J Romaden from Sandhotton. N Yorks. 12.40 FATHER CHRISTMAS FILLIES 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 2m

1.10 LORD STALBRIDGE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 3m 1f 110yds

P156-11: YORKSHINE GALE (100; (0) 1 G/long 9 11 10 _____ 1 Ampel (5) 249-11 SMITH'S BAND (24) (CD 89) Mrs. J Person 7 11 10... R Person 1 13:56-5 DON'T ELL THE WIFE (12) C Egency 9 11 8 _____ 522-22 TORMEN PRINCE (33) Mrs. H Wright 12 11.3 __Mrs. J Calloty (7) 12-227 DORMEN PRINCE (33) Mrs. H Wright 12 11.3 __Mrs. J Calloty (7) 12-227 DORMEN LIDIGE (12) C R Barrier 8 11 1 _____ 5 Michiel B121/3- DORSSIMAS GORSE (409) D Stocker 9 11.0 __Mr M Right BETTRYG: 2-1 Sediti's Band, Yorkshire Gele, 6-1 Duballow Lodge, 8-1 Dect Tell The Wife, Tources Prince, 10-1 Chris A Spek, 20-1 Christmas Gyne

1.40 WINCANTON GOLD CARD H'CAP HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS B) £7,000 2m 6f

2.45 HARRY DUFOSEE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m

3.15 STERRUP CUP NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m

DLE (CLASS F) 52,600 added 2m

1 505/25 FRONTHER (491) C Equiton 5 12 0 Mr M Rintel

2 52/541 CHINTHER (491) C Equiton 5 12 0 Mr M Rintel

3 02/47-02 GENERAL TORIC (13) 0 Cardido 8 11 7. Sophic Michael (5)

4 05/167 AMAGE (17) (3) 5 Mater 6 11 4 Cards Webb (5)

5 07-364 NO MERS 1685 (23) D Escorib 5 11 2 A Michael (5)

6 00-022 UDCARAN COT (24) (29) Mr J Pitton 4 11 0 Mr Rintel

7 25/67 C CAPPAN RELIEVA (26) S North 7 10 13 S Bentrough

4 06 WHESPERME COURT (82) A Turnel 5 10 12 G Cross (7)

9 0-13221 DOMINIOS COURT (82) A Turnel 5 10 12 G Cross (7)

10 000-16 TAMANDU (25) (5) C Javas 5 10 11 S [100 4 (7)

11 PROVIS RESERVICO NOTE (14) A 1 Wilson 7 10 0 L Bentry

12 0056-69 WHENT'S THE JORE (43) J Turk 6 10 0 Mr A Michael (7)

13 379006 LARRAN LEU (23) (8) Proping 5 10 0 Mr A Michael (7)

14 POLICO CARRAN LEU (23) (8) D S 10 0 Mr A CARD (7)

16 60/460 DESUNCI HOME (24) A JONES 7 10 0 Mr J CARD (7)

Music to miss key sterlift contest

The absence of Book Of Music from today's King George caused hardly a ripple in the betting on the big race, but the rain that fell during the early part of the weekend forced a plunge on the François Doumen pair, Val D'Alene and Algan.

Kim Bailey had warned that Book Of Music's participation depended on his working satisfactorily and Bailey's wife,

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Val D'Alene (Kempton 2.20) NB: Captain Khedive (Wolverhampton 2.00)

Tracey, announced on Sunday:

"He doesn't run at Kempton." William Hill's spokesman, David Hood, reported on the market moves that occurred before his firm's telephone lines closed for credit customers on Saturday. "We have laid Val D'Alene to lose well over £50,000 and Algan has been nearly as popular," he said. Ladbrokes have eased the favourite, One Man, from 7-4 to

2-1 and have also clipped the price of Val D'Alene to 12-1 from 14-1. The firm has trimmed Merry Gale, Algan and Monsieur Le Cure because of Book Of Music's defection.



KEMPTON

12.45: Master Beveled chased home Mack The Knife at Haydock, giving 12th to Martin Pipe's Champion Hurdle hopeful, bur is unlikely to cope with another Festival possible, RIVER NORTH, on softer ground. This Group One winner on the Flat should be fit winner on the reat studed for an abortive antumn campaign. If his jumping falls short of requirements, legins poses the danger.

LIS: SO FAR BOLD makes his debut on these shores after winning a valuable contest in Franci last time. He has been schooled over British fences and should prove too strong for the domes-tic opposition. Hill Of Tullow's Chepstow form worked out well and be beat second-season chasers at Sandown last time, but only after surviving a terrible blunder. Reel The Power, well-backed when landing a novice hurdle last season, looks a smart prospect.

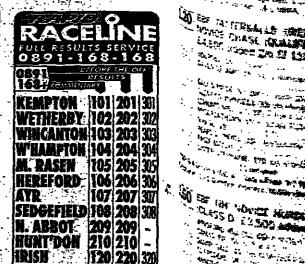
LAS: CHERYL'S LAD has been raised 9lb for his easy Chel-tenham win, but has been let off

highly compared to Grooving, 111b higher in the weights for a less authoritative success in a weaker event at Fontwell (with 2.29: The turn for the worse in the going will not help the chances of One Man, who fell in testing

hind VAL D'ALENE, and has scored only once on a right-hand ed course. The grey has also yet to win a race run at the kind of pace that Dublin Fiver is capable of setting. Few of these could stand up to Tim Forster's much improved handicapper in a jump-ing duel, which may cause problems for the likes of Barton Bank and Coulton, who are un-suited to slogging it out. Neither Dublin Flyer you Merry Gale are engranteed to last home in the nud and the more progressive of the French pair, who has run well against the best of his compatri-ots this autumn, can come through

2.50: Simple Arithmetic will be better suited by the going and dis-tance than on his chasing debut (Tothewoods unseated rider), but ran poorly at this meeting last year and may need a more galloping track. With Califsoe Bay expose as a flawed colossus, HARWELL LAD, who bear seasoned handicappers last time, can outstay and outjump inexperienced rivals.

NATIONAL HUNT FESTIVAL <u> 12TH • 13TH • 14TH MARCH</u> £37.50 CLUB DAY BADGE . SALES CLOSE JAN 1ST



Cath dragged og 39p/ride dragg rate. Stp://ride at all Other From \$40, 15 pages (store, lands (5) \$30.

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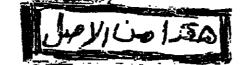
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CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE



Doumen expects a sterling exchange

the bookmakers again under-estimated the French challenge

for foday's King George.
"If they were trained in England, my horses would have been half those odds," claims the trainer, referring to some of the more extragavant prices quoted about Algan and Val D'Alene when ante-post betting opened on today's race.

Doumen, who says he has not the slightest interest in betting on French racing, has landed some notable gambling coups in the King George since he brought the unconsidered outsider Nupsala to Kempton in

"I backed him at 50-1 before that race, and he won it by 15 lengths," he said. "And I could not believe that I was able to get . 16-1 about The Fellow when he won it first time."

François Doumen believes that William Hughes finds the French - backed with cash and confidence

> it only 20s." Needless to say, he has backed both his pair at healthy prices for today's con-

race looks especially strong. Doumen feels remote enough in his SIS-free Lamorlaye yard not to be harried by the big An-glo-Irish reputations lined up against his horses. "I am sitting here in France, and I read in my English racing papers good news about one rival, and bad news about another. I don't worry too much either way."

And Doumen has little to

worry about, his string having accrued well over £1.5m in

winners just before the Parisian racing season closed down a couple of weeks ago. All this despite the death of

his stable stars, Ucello and Ubu. and the retirement of dual King George winner The Fellow to the Marquesa de Moratalla's stud near St Albans. As for Algan and Val D'Alene, the trainer says: "They Although admitting that the have been running in the top French jumping races this season. At home I have just been keeping them warmed up and

they are both very fit."

Doumen is not prepared to solit the two, but Ian Williams, his assistant, does confess to a slight preference. "Last year I told Lord Oaksey that I preferred The Fellow to the inexperienced Algan. That opinion was then broadcast on television before the race, so I felt a bit embarrassed afterwards.

And Algan last year? "Yes, of prize-money in 1995, including the This time I do think Algan course. I was on at 25-1, or was a blitz of Flat and jumping may be the one, he really is spot



and is confident of repeating the experience

on," Williams said. He has been recently won the same good an integral cog in the Doumen team since he left Jenny Pitman's yard four years ago.

Doumen has also targetted

So Far Bold at Kempton's Feltham Novices' Chase and the trainer is not reluctant to make "This time I do think Algan grand comparisons about him.

race at Auteuil that Val D'Alene had won en route to his success in the Racing Post Chase," he said.

The role of the today's venue in the Doumen success story can be gauged from the fact that the family Jack Russell is called

And even Kempton, the dog, seems lucky for Doumen. A year ago the trainer and his wife Elizabeth mislaid Kempton 50 miles from the stable only to recover him after what Doumen describes as "a bizarre series of coincidences".

Photograph: Robert Hallam

"Anything to do with Kempton seems lucky for us."

Danoli takes first strides on path to the Champion Hurdle

Danoli, who had looked likely Champion litudic after coming to miss the whole of the Na-through his first piece of work tional Hunt season after sus- since the accident on Saturday.

taining an injury at Aintree in His trainer, Tom Foley, now

on Hurdle at Leopardstown in were quick to reinstate the chance for Cheltenham, be- time when he contests tomortarget. He will also enter Dano-

February as the gelding's first horse into a market on the hind Alderbroook, at 11-4, and row's Christmas Hurdle at race that has been weakened by Montelado, at 9-2. The last- Kempton as Richard Dunli for the Champion Hurdle at withdrawals and disappoint- named is likely to be partnered woody prefers to ride at Leopments. They make him a 6-1 by Jamie Osborne for the first ardstown.

April, is back on course for the has the AIG Europe Cl

HYPERION 12.35 La Menorquina 1.05 Potentate 1.35 Doc Cottrill 2.05 Trying Again 2.35 Hightown Cava-lier 3.05 Mobile Messenger 3.35 Corrin Hill

PRECAUTIONARY INSPECTION 7.30am

GOING: Heavy.

Righ-land coarse with 300yd rup-in.

Racerousse is north of city on A49. ADBOSSBON: Club 19;
Tanzersul's 56; Course 54. CAE PARE; Free.
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Wakt (1.36) has been sent 116 miles
by J White from Wendower, Buckinghamshire.

12.35 TURKEY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds 1 KRNE GRESEACH (65) X Balley 6 11 5 ______A Thorston 3412 LA MENORQUINA (24) D Navie 5 11 D ______ D Relegion

PPC STRONG GLEY (20) P Wegsenn 7 10 12 S Power (7) 00/0 THE MEDICANS GONE (26) D Georgity 7 19-12 V Statlery 040 WOODYDU (29) F Jordan 5 20 12 June 1 Lodder

1.05 TURKEY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV fl) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

2 FF53-10 THREE PHILDSOPHERS (27) (CD) REP) T Forster 6 11.5 0350 ALLOW (15) B Lievellys 4 10 12...... 4- PACIFIC POWER (480 A Junes 5:10:12... RAISE AND GAIN (13) N Tueston-Déces 4 10 12_C Licensition REBEL PROEST C Service 5 10 12 __D Collection

1.35 MINCE PIE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,600 added 3m 2f RULUSO DOC COTTREL (29) is Palego Dayles 5 12 0 ____C Limetin

PF - HYMER (249,9 | Israelja 6/20 _______D Mathews (9) 321-015 WANT (19) (D) (BF) (Whee 5/11/10 _______P Miclosoffin 0-50239 COPPER COR. (24) W.S.M. Name 5 12 5 ______ A Thornton O PFOFO BOOCK BOFFER (Q M Fige & 11 0 7 23107 THE TITAN GROST SEQ S Continue 5 10 10 Warts Proces (7) 8 40-00 Flythin Self (22) R Hollesbood 4 10 9 ______ M W Mortin (7) 9 55-3030 JTS GBAND (6) M Bradly 6 10 0 ______ P.Johnson (5) _____

Minimum weight 10st. Thei terreliem weight is Genet 9st 12th. SETTIME 11-4 Doc Cottrill, 3-1 ins Grand, 4-1 Whitebounet, 5-1 Weist, 7-1 Flying Iron, 10-1 Copper Coll, 16-1 others

12.50 Cyrus The Great 1.20 Lemon's Mill

1.50 Come Dance With Me 2.30 Bramblehill

Buck 3.05 Sovereign Niche 3.35 Mega-

GOING: Henry (wondergood in places).

Left-hand, sharp; course with short run-in.

Course is N of town on ASSO. ADMISSION: Tunersells 28.50;
Course & CAR PAREZ: On rule 4.154, templander free,
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN BATS: Home.

12.50 THURLESTONE BOTTE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 370 2m 1f

1.20 EBF TATTERSALLS (RELAND) MARIES NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £4,500 added 2m 5f 110yds

LONG-DISTANCE KONNERS: Historia (2.20) has builded by R Custis from Woodcom, London

4 UNIDED FRONT (45) R O'Sul

rope Champi- Chenennam and William Hi	1
2.05 PLIM PUDDING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m]
1. RD-3F41. PRINCE ILEY PLACE (25) N Totalco-Davies 7 11 7 C Llowellyn.	1
2 22/324-3 CAPENNARY (41) J King 6 11 0	ŀ
3 OP DANK DIAMOND (153) H Kesepagh 511.0 T C Morphy (7)	ŀ
4 /11F10/ RIVER 10SSE (850) C Egerton 6 11.0	1
5 075-3 STEY SUMY (295) R Dickon 8:11:0D Moreoffith	ı

-6 declared -BETTING: 5-4 Planteckey Place, 9-4 Trying Again, 9-2 Copenants, 6-1 Ris-er Lossie, 20-1 Stay Suny, 50-1 Dark Diamond

CAROL RICHARDSON BIRTHDAY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,200 added 2m 1f

5225/41 - CAMMERA BOY (27) (CD) C Jones 7 12 0 _____ Mr E James 50523/5 - PRONTAGER (402) C Ejerton 5 12 0 _____ A726-P4 - BIELSCHAORN BARD (26) D Gendolio 5 11 4 ____ D Fortt (5) 30/3 - CARELESS FARBIER (479) R Tueston-Dades 5 11 1 ___ C Unwalless P.54311 : HIGHTONIN CRUNLER (11) (C) R Hodges 4 11.0 J Haris (7) 4000-0 MUTAWALI (96) R Baler 5.10.0

Allebraro webste: 10st. True hacrileso webstes: Mutaved 9st 11th. Celtic Erner

3.05 TOTE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,500 added 3m 1f 110yds | SP-92-9 | PROZE MARCH (10) | Tuck 6 11 0 | SP-92-9 | PROZE MARCH (10) | Tuck 6 11 0 | Tuck 6 11 0

Minimum weight: 10st. True handlose weights: Lo-Fishel Maste 9st 10ib. Up-BETTING: 3-1 Dantes San, 7-2 Hobbs Messenger, Prize Match, 4-1 Big "Arthur, 8-1 Holy Sting, 10-1 Ballydongus, 16-1 others

3.35 HUGHES CATERERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 2m 3f 110yds 0621-61 SPRING SUNT (25) Miss C Hoter 5 12 0 ______ G Upton 3U020-P SOAR MOVER (10) (CD) C Smath 6 12 0 ______ B Cleate (7) 12 050-02P CASSIO'S BOY (15) R Exitor 4 10 1 _______ D Gallagter
13 P40(004 LEESWOOD (26) R Lee 7 10 1 ______ R Bellary
14 300-022 DANCING DANCER (25) (0) D Geograp 6 10 0 ____ V Stationy

Minimum velight 10st. True handicap velight: Don BETTHIC: 8-1 Corrie Hill, 5-1 Spring Saint, 8-1 Ry by North, 8-1 Silver -Standard, 12-1 My Swan Song, Dancing Dencer, 14-1 others

SETTING: 2-1 Decrees, 4-1 Come Deaco With Me, 8-1 Hanging Grove, No Near Miss, 10-1 E Frunkle, Winsford HR, 12-1 Decry Gale, 16-1 others

2.30 CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 2f LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL HANDICAP

2212 P5 . LANGER MARK (16) (CD) BR 446 man 8 11 12..... D Seller (5)

3.05 CHRISTMAS PUDDING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 110yds

21PP4P BENJAMEN LANCASTER (15) (C) (D) M GHBn 11 11 10

941-41F (DS A SNEP (44) (D) C Menn 10 10 6 - 8 declared -BEUDIG: 11-4 Stambiokii Suck, 3-1 Terno, 9-2 Killeshin, 6-1 Sibrerino,

110yds

PF213-P TERMO (25) M Pipe 9 12 0 ...

HUNTINGDON

12.30 Camp Bank 1.00 Second Call 1.30 Alaskan Heir 2.00 Kilfinny Cross 2.30 Ask Me Kindly 3.00 Fierce 3.30 Flexwing

GOING: Good to Soft (with Soft patches). Bight-hand, level course. Run-in 200yds.

Course is at junc of Al and AGO4. ADMISSION: Members \$12;
Tattersuls \$5; Course \$4, CAB PARK: Pictule area \$1; rest free.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEYEM. DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Vicona. (1.00), Blake's Wonder (1.30) & Binstery Day (3.30) have been sent 156 miles by R Alner from Days.

12.30 FESTIVE SPIRIT "NATIONAL HUNT" NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,350 added 3m 2f

– 12 declared – - BETTING: 7-2 Merljese, 4-1 Shellow River, Cr

	1.00 CHRISTMAS TIDE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds
i	1 5/410P-1 FALMOUTH BAY (33) S Sherwood 6 11 7
	2 436-621 SOLO 629/7 (35) (CD) A Jones 6 11 7
ı	3 00-5421 VICOSA (36) R Almer 6 11 7P Casesy (5)
	4 50350P- BALAAT (279) M Chepman 7 11 0
	5 62/P407 I'M TOBY (661) A G Foster 8 11 0 Richard Guest
	5 1/572-PO MAESTRO PAUL (24) J Grigor 9 11 0Mr P O'Naefie (7)
	7 26-5642 NASORELIA (19) J Pearce 7 11 0
	8 /046-50 RIVER ISLAND (17) J Ob 7 11 0T Greetham
ĺ	9 5403U54 STRONG JOHN (14) 8 Hubbard 7 11 0
	10 1230-42 TRYING AGNIN (12) (817) D Gendolfo 7 11 0 G Upton
	11 2265-24 CARRYLOUGH (24) D Gardoto 6 10 9M Richards
	12 11230-F SECOND CAN JOED T Freder R 109 19 Knowledt

1.30 CHRISTMAS BOX HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 5f 110yds 000-600 RED LIGHTER (10) JON 6 10 2. 16 PS-5060 PONTENECCHIO BELLA (14) Mrs L. Jowel 9 10 0 W Walsh (7)

negarian weger. Liber two erroccip weger Peruseculus Sees 55 50. Bet 1986: 9-2 Owens, Co. H. Heddey, 6-1. Alandam Heir, 7-1 Braida. Boy, 8-1 Bedraidami, 10-1 V Bambino, 12-1 others

2.00 'Q103' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m 1 12211-2 RECFORY CARDEN (60) (C) (D) T Foster 6 11 12 2 1P2/P1-1 NULFRONY CROSS (46) (C) (D) J Passoo 7 11 11 J McLaughin 6F315-1 DISTINCTIVE (13) M Wilkinson 6 11 5 1154-61 MANERRE (18) (CD) N Catagian 8 11 3 _____ D Getagler FLF-3PF BUCKSHOT (12) J Giford 7 11 1 ______ No P O'Kneffe (7) PP/3P-2 SEDGE WARBLER (21) Mrs P Robeson 8 10 10 _M Richards 7 35421-5 SPROWSTON BOY (19) (D) M Chapman 12 10 4 ...

-8 declared -BETING: 5-2 Memeree, 3-1 Kifferry Cross, 7-2 Distinctive, 4-1 Rectory Garden, 5-1 Sedge Warbler, 12-1 Backshol, 14-1 others

2.30 FESTIVE SPERIT NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,350 added 3m 2f 20FF1_CAMALERO (24) H Marmats 6 11.5 _____Mr A Baiding (7)
3 ASK NE KRIDLY (24) O Shewood 7 10 12 ____ M Richards
3-29 FEFH FLSSLER (12) Mass A Embarates 8 10 12 ____ J Syan
P. FLOTORION (248) John Beny 8 10 12 ____ J Morats
3125-0 JULIARA (15) J Edwards 6 10 12 ____ J R Karsangel

65-4 SPACENCE GOLD (35) J Old 6 10 12 _______ T Grantham 33P-4LP SP6(EY (NZ) (24) J Jenkers 9 10 12 ______ E Morphy 4000/43- MESS MOSEY OATS (296) K Burke 7 10 7 R Massey (5)

– 11 deciared – BETTHE: 7-2 Ask Me Kindly, 9-2 Casalero, 5-1 Third Melody, Julkara, Miss Notey Osts, 7-1 Spaceage Gold, 12-1 Spikey, 16-1 others 3.00 BOXING DAY HANDICAP CHAS

Let P O'Keelle (7)

- 5 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Newboli Prince, 3-1 Wylane, 7-2 Driving Force, Florce,

3.30 MISTLETOE STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 2m 110yds BLUSTERY DAY R Alner 5 11 4 3 BERMANE MAY (27) R Williams 5 11 4 _______ S. Keightiny 6 CARDNAL RUE (21) I Charats 6 11 4 ______ JR Kreunsch 3-2 CHAI-10 (J.4) J 00: 5 11 4 ______ T Greathan CORRECT 75 K Morsen 4 11 4 ___S Ryeen (7) O LINGA'S PRINCE (12) O Brennen 6 11 4 _____ S O'Doornel (7) OPTRESTIC AFFAIR A Service 4 11 4 ______ T Boy

– 15 deciared – BETTERE 4-1 Capi-Yo, 5-1 Brandey May, 6-1 Safegide, 7-1 The Captain's Wish, 8-1 Stastary Day, 10-1 Conference, 14-1 others

WOLVERHAMPTON

1.00 Herbert Buchanan 1.30 Church Law 2.00 Captain Khedive 2.40 Storm North

INSPECTION 6.39am Left-hand, oval course.

Course is N of town on A449. ADMISSION: Members £15; jrandstand 56. CAR PARK; free.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Addington Boy (1.30) has been sent 175 miles by G Richards from Greystoke, Cumbria.

22-(10) A SUPPLEME MUSIC (27) P Nations 6 10 12 _____ A P McCoy — 7 uniquesa — 2 Remeter, 3-1 Clear Mea, 7-2 Sovereign Miche, 8-1 Bos-star, 8-1 Sopresse Masic, 10-1 Mapie Deccar, 14-1 Tale Of

3.35 ROYAL CASTLE HOTEL NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 6f HIGHEST ROOTS M Pps 4 12 0 _______ D Bridgether 0483-30 MELLION PRIDE (24) P Hotos 7 11 7 ______ 6 Tomosy (3) 40820-2 AR PLANFOL (13) R Front 5-10-8 OPPOD-2 MESSAGENCH (34) R Judes 7 10 0 _______ D Sales (5)

11 OSUDA 0: YEARORD MODEL (198) Y Georgey 5 10 0 __M Griffiths (7) __11 declared -Michigan weight 10st. True handlage weights: Magamenth 9st 13th, Halle Dening But 12th, Deith Reg Sat Bib, Old Deer Perk Sat Sib, Vestoral Model Sat 7th. 70. RETURN: 5-2 Modius Pride, 4-1 Fox On The Run, 5-1 Maile De

8-1 Highest Roots, 8-1 Young Year, 10-1 Caralors, 12-1 others

ويتبعر أشتاه محسب

3.10 Tony's Mist 3.40 Elflaa

1.00 PERTEMPS NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £8,000 added to stakes 2m 4f 1.10yds

32:1242 HERBERT BUCHANAN (7) P Notable 5 10 12 _____ A Debble 15-15F3 CRACKING DEA (22) | Edwards 7 10 7 _____ B Featon (5) -7 declared BETURE: 3-1 Ferrifols, 7-2 Indicini Fiold, 9-2 Herbert Bucha
Societa, 8-1 Early Distince, Cracking Idea, 12-1 Costy Special

1.30 DEEPFIELDS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added to stakes 3m 1f 2331-F1 MYLAND (41) 0 She mood 5 11 5 ______J A McCarthy 3 253.7-1 RYTHAND (42) U Shemboot 6 12 5 ______ A ROLLING
4 19-4 QUITE A MAN (23) W Jorks 7 11.4 ______ Bullion
5 0U.ODP ARRANGE A GAME (7) M Lutmoon 8 11.0 _____ B Graded
6 00-3 MAGES WAY (53) J Edwards 5 10 13 ______ A Tony
- 6 declared BETTWIC cross Addington Roy, 9-4 Mythand, 3-1 Church Law, 14-1 Hag's
Way, 20-1 Quite A Man, 25-1 Arrange A Game

2.00 HARRY BROWN MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £20,000 added to stakes 2m

1121-SF CLAY COUNTY (39) (D) (SEP) M Hammond 10: 12: 0 - A Dobbi POFEOD: LASATA (244) (D) P Hobbe 10 10 0 ______R Danie 3-21121 NEWHALL PRINCE (LO) (D) A Streeter 7 10 0 ___Gery Lycos

-7 declared -7

2.40 JTS (INTERNATIONAL) NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added to stakes 2m

- 13 deciared -BETTERE: 3-1 Marwood Castin, 4-1 Storm North, 5-1 Weebeby, 7-1 Dassig Island, Bodfari Producer, 14-1 Cables Rog, Right Angla, 16-1 others 3.10 LIFTING GEAR & TOOL HIRE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added to

stakes 2m 53-14L6 EXCLUSION (22) (D) J Histoeron 6 11 6 _______ R Marie; 425-1/3 PRESTON GUILD (47) (D) (EF) S Earle 5 11 6 _____ Rattor COPO-40 DANCE ON SEPTENCE (11) J Percock, 7 11 0 _Philip Hughes (7) 50PDO-P DUVEEN (28) (817) White 5 11.0 50700.P (UVEEN (28) 937 / WHEE 5 11 0 ______ B CHROW
(2) LITH (EADER (27) C Sparton 5 11 0 ______ B CHROW
F-O INTERES (183) 6 Feton 5 11 0 ______ Bir J L Llowellyn
(0) 080-000 NORTHESH SNIGER (40) R Nodge 5 11 0 _____ A Tory
(1) PP-0020 RAFTER-J (18) J A Hams 4 11 0 ______ A 15 00005-P SHE IQUENTHE RULES (180) D Carey 5 10 9 _____ R David - 15 declared -BETTRICK 4-1 Amber Valley, 9-2 Preston Guid, 6-1 Latin Legier, Senon Magic, 7-1 Exclusion, 8-1 Tearly's Mist, 14-1 others

3.40 HAGUE FASTENERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £6,000 added to stakes 2m #11324 WINESWARD ARROW (11) ID BF) X Burler 9 12 O. A Lemach (5) 65-1/244 THROWER (13) B Precos 4 10 9 _______ Cary Lyons
P111-46 DAILY SPORT GRIL (40) (D) B Linealin 5 10 3 Jbt 3 L Linealin
100551 CHRISTS GLEN (13) (D) J M Bradley 6 10 0 _____ B CERTard

- 10 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. The handkap weight: Chris's Gien 3st 13th. BETTING: 7-2 Tojano Gold, 5-1 Billian, Lot's Got Lost, 5-1 Sacobor, 7-1 Windowd Arlom, Chris's Gion, 8-1 others

MARKET RASEN

HYPERION 12.25 Dream Start 12.55 by House 1.25 Kingdom Of Shade 2.00 Iffeee 2.30 Nocatchim 3.05 Artic Wings 3.35 Lucy Tufty INSPECTION 7am

GOING: Chase course — Good to Suft (Good in back straight); Hurdle course — Good (Good to Soft in places).

Right-hand, sharp, undulating circuit. Run-in of one furlong.

E Course is east of town on ASSI. ADMISSION: Chib 510; Tamersails 58 (OAPs who are members of course's Jubice Club 541; Silver Rung 54 (Jubilee Club OAPs 52). CAR PARK: plente srees 52, remainder free.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Iffeee (2.0) has been sent 265 miles by P Bowen from Hawerfordwest, Dyfed.

434/5-02 TREVVEETHAN (19) Mrs S Austin 6 11 6 ERLEMO (40) (C) W (22) 6 11 3 ... Guy Leads (3G Lee (3) POS REPERMISORA (20) M Crapman 4 10 7 A S Smith 12 00-0 SALUTATION (18) T Kersey 4 10 0 .

Albeitsum weight: 10st. Irue handings weight Sologation 9st 11th, Thomas Rand 9st 7th. BETTPEC: 2-1 Kimberley Boy, 9-2 Brackentinvalle, 6-1 Euclasion, 7-1 Trevveethan, 8-1 to 10-1 Dream Stort, 12-1 others

12.55 BRUCE CARR MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £5,200 added 3m 1f 0/P02-33 CARSON CITY (28) (8F) Mrs M Revelor 8 12 0E Lee (3) 4-21PO6 RUSTINO (13) (C) W S Currengtom 9 11 11....... 3F3F11 PERLAYAN GALE (12) (D) Mrs S Smith 6 11 11 ... _G Hegen (3) 1250-32 RY HOUSE (34) (BF)] | 074ell 7 11 8 ... 0(0/-326 FRAL BEAT (21) | Curts 6 11 8 4542-64 NATIVE MONT (24) M Hammond 8 11 8. Mr C Bonner (3 10 616-PT5 SOLDMAN SPRINGS (11) Mrs V Ward 5 11 3 ... 11 0/4LB-3 KIBBY BANK (34) J H Johnson 6 10 13F Lealny (3)

— 14 declared —

— 15 SETTIME: 3-1 Persylga Gale, 5-1 Stormy Coral, Quiet Mistress, 6-1 Carson City, 7-1 by House
12-1 Ocean Leader, Kinty Rusi, 16-1 others

1.25 SANDILANDS GOLFING HOLIDAYS MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds 00-26 AH THERE YOU ARE (36) (8F) K Baley 6 11 5... 4 ALCIAN BLUE (26) M Hammond 4 115 ... CO(26-6 BE BRAVE (12) T Etheongron 5 11 5 COUNT OF FLANDERS & Morgan 5 11 5 Mir C Bonner (3) بها ا.__A S Smill 4 HONEY MOUNT (11) N Waller 4 11 5 _ 0- IASONS FARM (234) W Clay 5 11 5 ______ 5-23 KINGDOM OF SHADES (12) A Turnel 5 11 5 _____ 00-6 MACS HERO (10) C Smith 5 11 5 _____ (3) طبعا برجو.M. Rample 020 MAJOR SIGUX (10) Mrs S Smith 4 11.5 ... 0000 MELO BOY (8) M Chapman 4 11.5R Wildeson (7) ...W Worthington _G Lee (3

112- RUM (291) C Egerton 4 11 D - 16 declared -— 10 INCIDENT —

BETTENS: 5-4 Kingdom of Stacles, 6-1 Rumi, 7-1 Hestietta Howard, 8-1 Ab There You Are, 10-1 Abrian Size, 12-1 Honey Mount, 14-1 others

2.00 LINCOLNSHIRE NATIONAL (CLASS C) (A HANDICAP CHASE) £15,000 added 4m 1f PP4-111 HIGH PADRE (10) (C) J ResGerald 9 11 7 ... 011-3UU DARK OAK (10) (C) J Curte 9 11 2 55F0-44 DO BE BROEF (12) Mrs J Primen 10 11 1. 2PP-PF1 MATT RED (10) (C) J Leigh 11 10 11 610-640 HILLWALK (12) R Curtes 9 10 10 3324-OF HABTON WHIN (13) M H Easterby 9 10 4 _W McFastanM Browner Mr C Bormer (3) 10 35421-5 SPROWSTON BOY (19) M Chapman 12 10 0 ...

Mainum weight: 10st. True handloop weights: Pennine Pride 9st 30, Sprowston Boy 8st 80.

BETHING: 10-11 High Parks, 5-1 Mart Reid, 8-1 liftees, 10-1 Do Be Brief, Pennine Pride, 12-1 Dernond Fort, 16-1 others

2.30 ROSELAND GROOF PARTIES AND GROOF ROSELAND GROO 031410- CASH CHASE (263) (CD) 0 Brennan 7 11 12 __ 310-21 SESAME SEED (17) (D) Mrs J Caci 7 11 12 __ 06-5554 BRANGLEDERRY (17) Mrs S Smith 6 11 8_ 10130-5 TEST MATCH (43) (CD) W Cay 8 11 5... 500255- WASHLEY (234) S Golling 7 11 5 باوجود ل... 13-4 PRIDE OF MAY (48) C Fastural 4 10 12 ... Jilr K Whelen (5) ...G Lee (3) 9 206:13 LET'S GET LOST (17) JA Harra 5:10 9 _____ 10 P-51114 CAN CAN CHARLE (19) (C) (89) J Pearce 5:10 9. A S Smith _L O'Hara 16 33023P BRITANNIA MILLS (10) M Chapman 4 10 0 .

— 16 declared — 16 declared — Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: 10st. Anne handicap weight: 10st. True handicap weight: 10st. True handicap weight: 10st. True handicap weight: 10st. Handicap weight: 10st. Florid

3.05 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £5,200 added 2m 4f 3F3-34F MR PUDGE (6) (D) Mrs / Brown 8 11 9M. Foste Mr C Store 2500- BUSKING ALONG (221) F Murphy 6 11 5 01242- CATHRESS CLOUD (383) C Paner 7 11 5 _LOTter W McFerlan BETTING: 11-4 Artic Wings, 4-1 Going Around, 6-1 Po ness Cloud, 8-1 Mr Fedge, Apollo Colosso, 12-1 ot

3.35 CHRISTMAS SPIRIT NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m 1f 110yds __ Supple (3) L122F2 LUCYTUFTY (19) (CD) | Pearte 4 11 3..... 24-5 PRINCESS MAXINE (6) | J O'Neil 6 11 3.... 5-24511 STAC-POLLARIN (22) K Bailey 5 11 3 A Roche (3) ...M Brenna RO! THE ADJUTANT (750) F Murphy 7 10 10...

DOUBLE DECLARATIONS

The following horses are doubly declared on Boxing Day. They will run at their second preference meeting only if the first preference is abandoned: Almanazar First preference Merket Resen 3.35 (Second preference Merket Resen 3.35 (Second preference Merket Resen 3.25); Balaast Merket Resen 12.55 (Hurtingdon 1.00); Bernstormer Huntingdon 12.30 (Sedgefield 12.40); Blackpetch Hill Wetherby 1.50 (Ayr 12.55); Braida Boy Hurtingdon 1.30 (Hereford 3.35); Carthoness Cloud Ayr 1.25 (Merket Resen 3.05); Carson City Sedgefield 1.40 (Market Resen 12.55); Cavaleto Newton Abbot 3.35 (Hurtingdon 2.30); Cawarra Boy Hereford 2.35 (Wincarton 3.15); Cettle Emerated Hereford 2.35 (Wincarton 3.35) (Cettle Emerated Hereford 2.35 (Wincarton 3.35) (Sedgefield 2.40); Cholsty Ayr 1.25 (Sedgefield 2.40);

2.40).

Eta Man Howa Wetherby 3.20 (Ayr. 1.55); Exclusion Market Rasen 12.25 (Wolverhampton 3.10); Falmouth Bay Kernpton 2.50 (Huntington 1.00); Five to Seven Wetherby 2.50 (Ayr. 1.25); Fourth in Line Kempton 1.45 (Wetherby 1.50); Frontager Wincanton 3.15 (Hersford 2.35); Gayton Run Huntingdon 12.30 (Sedgefield 12.40); Hatriton Whin Sedgefield 1.40 (Market Rasen 2.50); Hillwelk Market Rasen 2.00 (Newton Abbot 2.30); Tra Toby Market Rasen 3.05 (Huntingdon 1.00); Iffeee Market Rasen 2.50 (Sedgefield 1.40); by House Market Rasen 12.55 (Ayr. 1998).

2.25); Lasata Wolverhampton 2.00 Wincenton 2.45); Let's Get Lost Wolver-hampton 3.40 (Market Resen 2.30).

der, 7-1 Cath

hampion 3.40 (Market Resen 2.30).

Megamunch Newton Abbor 3.35 (Woherhampion 2.40): Millo Boy Market Rasen 1.25 (Huntingdon 2.30); Monsleur Le Cure Kempton 2.20 (Wetherby 2.20); Native Field Market Rasen 2.30 (Wetherby 1.50); Newhall Prince Wickerhampion 2.00 (Huntingdon 3.00); No Near Miss Newton Abbot 1.50 (Wincarnon 3.15); One Man Kempion 2.20 (Wetherby 2.20); Owens Quest Wetherby 3.20 (Huntingdon 1.20); Pacific Power Market Rasen 3.35 (Herricot 1.05); Phale of May Sedgefield 1.10 (Market Rasen 2.30); Phale of May Sedgefield 1.10 (Market Rasen 3.20) (Herricot 3.05). ont 3.05).

(Hereford 3.05).

Rafterl Merket Rasen 12.25 (Wolverhampton 3.105), Rumil Market Rasen 1.25 (Wolverhampton 3.10); Rumil Market Rasen 1.25 (Hereford 12.35); Rye Crossing Sedgefield 12.40 (Wetherby 3.20); Sessinver Market Rasen 2.30 (Wolverhampton 3.20 (Market Rasen 2.30); Shallow River Sedgfield 12.40 (Humingdon 12.30); Solo Gent Kempton 1.15 (Humingdon 1.00); Sovereign Niche Newton Abbot 3.05 (Wincarton 2.45); Sprowston Boy Market Rasen 2.00 (Humingdon 2.00); Storing Coral Ayr 2.25 (Market Rasen 12.55); Trying Again Hereford 2.05 (Humingdon 1.00); Weaver George Sedgefield 3.10 (Wetherby 1.50).

1.50 ERF 1GT NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) 10 MINESTON MIL (32) CD P HOND 4 11 5 Pela DROSS DAMES FIG FIG MI Pole 4 11 0 D Bd 00 DAME FIG FIG MI MICROS 4 11 0 D Bd 00 30 C 12 REPODE CD J Dd 511 0 D 511 0 D 549 66 MINESTON GROVE (23) P MINING 5 11 0 D .. 277 PRESENT CLANCE (85) Most C Microscott & 10 9 ...

sport

Kinnear adds brain to brawn

The Crazy Gang have matured thanks to their manager, says Glenn Moore

n a converted transport cafe tie with Newcastle was ar-overlooking the public park where Wimbledon train, Ioe so far. Kinnear was describing the manager's version of fantasy

He leaned back in his chair and purred: "a 40.000-capacity all-seat stadium: 10 practice pitches with surfaces like bowling greens; a youth system from six-year-old to adult with all the best kids in the city; and money to burn.

If this is what it is going to be like no wonder Wimbledon want to move. But no, Kinnear is not describing a possible fu-ture in Dublin or Cardiff; he is recalling an actual past, a job he held for six years in Dubai.

It is a long way from man-aging Wimbledon, but in the circumstances, Kinnear could be forgiven if he felt temporarily disorientated. The mooted move to freland or monumental to this club, phe-

Wales comes 'Everything is three bases already, none of which are

really home. forward play team play at to make the Palace: the game more reserves at Plough Lane: attractive and both train in the park off the A3.

Even if Wimbledon do not move, Kinnear might. He is one of the favourites to follow Jack Charlton as manager of the Republic of Ireland.

All this speculation has been accompanied by a damaging run of form that has raised the spectre of Wimbledon finally slipping out of the élite, after 10 rumbustious years among them. They began the Christmas programme without a win

in 16 starts.
"We should have won several of them," said Kinnear. "We are playing better and we are getting fitter," he adds, reeling off half-a-dozen returning serious injury victims. Significantly, they include the bulk of

clubs, cannot afford an injury crisis. They have had to use 27 players this season, stretching typical. They took on Newcasand repeated the trick away to chase for long. Leeds. "Sometimes you fear the worst when you look at the sides, but we gave it a blast it seemed to work in our favour," said Kinnear.

In both games they got the

Not so long ago, Wimbledon would have sought to beat a team like Newcastle by intimidating them physically, the league points being paid for with disciplinary ones. In that match, the only bookings were for Newcastle and Wimbledon attacked down the flanker subattacked down the flanks rather than with the long punt down the middle.

The change illustrated Wimbledon's development under Kinnear. The reputation lingers, but they are no longer an ugly, bruising side. Pash the Bash took his elbows to Aston Villa, and the Jones boy. having been dropped, is con-

templating a move.

"He is the last of the dinosaurs, the old Crazy Gang," Kinnear said. "He has been

> we have been good for him. When he goes, people will perceive it as the fi-"It was a conscious decision

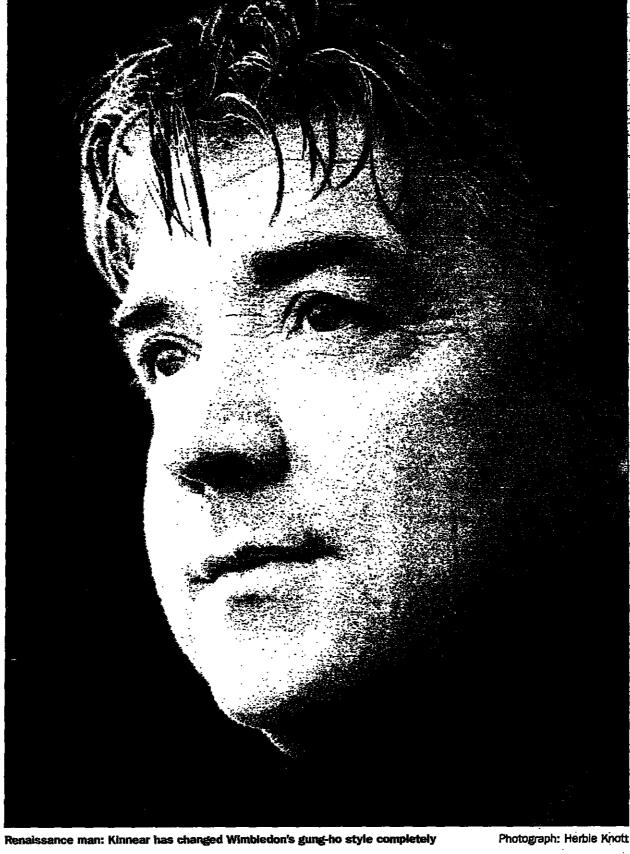
to change the style, but to do so without losing what we had. You get criticised

whichever way you do it. Journalists come to me and they say: 'You have gone soft. You don't kick people anymore and hit it long. Don't you think you had better get back to the old Wimbledon way and frighten the life out of people? "But football has changed, it

has moved on. We have allseater stadiums, new rules have come in and players get booked willy-nilly. Everything is staked on forward play to make the game more attractive. The thing you must have now as a defender is pace. The old sliding tackle I used to make is gone. I tell my defenders to stay on their feet, do not tackle in the box, get the blocks in instead. Years ago people would Wimbledon, more than most le in, now, if he goes down, it is a sending-off offence."

reluctance. A devoted, but iartheir thin resources too far. The gon-free coach with a wall full response has, however, been of videos at home. Kinnear would not have been happy tle with four centre-forwards, teaching a team to kick and

Wimbledon's image has changed off the pitch too. Having had a jibe at the café, it is only fair to note that inside it better of the draw and the 3-3 Manchester United.



decorated with Christmas cards and pennants. Photographs of players dot the walls. Yet, when Kinnear took over as manag-er. following Peter Withe's brief, ill-fated, spell four years ago, it still was a transport café. It was diabolical. All the truck drivers would come in the

morning, the place would stink of bacon and eggs. We would some of our lads would be go-ing in there. I remember Alan Change was not made with Cork and Sam [Hammam] having a cup of tea and a bacon sarnie then going out to train-

"I said to Sam: 'What about spending a bit on this, do it up and put the offices here. We spent £250,000 on it. Sam said: That could go towards a player'. I said: 'This is here for life. It is for the future, for the kids, is more homely than the train- the parents. When you show ing facilities at Liverpool or them around we have a lovely

Inside, there is a big fireplace room for the kids. It is money

well spent, and it is a base." Wimbledon also bought the six nearest pitches on the adjacent playing fields. Undersoil heating ensures they are fit for play when the public pitches on the far side are not. An alert groundsman keeps the dogs off (incidentally, neither Arsenal or Spurs own their own training grounds).

Wimbledon. We are a selling club. We have to find £3m a not find them anymore. Then it is not a case of selling one

player, it is selling five." Kinnear's own career was spent at the other end of the spectrum. For seven years the right-back was often the only youth-team graduate at Tottenham. The added pressure cost him, he estimates, 25 caps. won four titles. There were both possess much sharper tac-

Kinnear has a clause in his contract guaranteeing his re-

lease if Ireland do offer him the manager's job. "If it happens, I can consider it with Sam's blessing. He has suggested I could do both, but I could not." would not be new to Kinnear.

would have an international that is how bad their planning

was. The choice was mine, but

I knew if I did not play for Spurs

I might not get my place back."

When he retired as a player year just to break even. What Terry Venables, a former roomif we reach a stage when we do mate, offered him the job of youth team coach at QPR. But he had enjoyed travelling with Ireland and Spurs and applied to work overseas, beginning in Nepal. He then worked with the national squad in Malaysia and India before moving to Dubai.

"I had six years there and them around we have a lovely "In midweek, we would be playtreatment room, a weights ing in the Uefa Cup and Ireland Menotti who had won the might suggest.

3.0 unless s

World Cup with Argentina, Brazilians, Yugoslavs, Rus-sians, Dutch. The facilities and lifestyle were fantastic. I earned enough to be financially secure, if not rich.

The swimming-pool life palled eventually and Kinnear, who had spent most of his holidays at Lilleshall attending coaching sessions, came back to look for a job in England. Within a week, Dave Mackay, who had also been in the Gulf. made him assistant manager at

Doncaster. From there he moved to Wimbledon, first as assistant to Ray Harford then, in January 1992, as manager. He is happy there. He and Hammam get on well, he is popular with supporters and committed to the club. But Ireland attracts. Chirpy and chubby Kinnear is the antithesis of Charlton, but coaches from all over, Cesar tical minds than their image

United are devoid of glitter

GUY HODGSON

Leeds United Manchester United

Who could blame Alex Fergu-son if he was a little low on the Christmas spirit yesterday? In-deed, it would be a surprise if he bothered with his turkey and trimmings at all. The way things are going he probably feared food poisoning.

In the space of eight days the Manchester United manager has seen his team's title credentials look as tatty as last year's tinsel. Two matches have been lost, five goals have been shipped and Newcastle United are so far ahead now the Ty-nesiders could lost at Old Trafford tomorrow evening almost with impunity.

Worse still, Ferguson is los-

ing players to injury with almost every match. Steve Bruce is the latest to succumb, limping out of Elland Road with a hamstring strain that will keep him out of action, in his words, "for a long time". With Gary Pallister also disabled with back problems United's central defence is looking threadbare.

As indeed it was made to appear for much of this match. United, second in the Premiership but labouring were cut to pieces by Leeds who, Fer-guson admitted, could have won by far more. Now they must face the leaders tomorrow with a makeshift defence that might include the on loan French international defender from Bordeaux, William Prunier.

"It's something we'll have to look at," Ferguson said. "At least we've got three days to sort something out. Prunier has been allowed to go home to France for the weekend and will not be back until Tuesday. I know he played well for the reserves against Derby last week."

Whatever Ferguson comes up with it can only be an im-provement on this match. He dropped David May, his best defender in the fiasco at Liverpool. and chose Paul Parker instead, a calculated risk that went wrong when the former England defender missed the ball and allowed Tony Yeboah a run

at goal after 35 minutes. Give the Ghanaian a fra and opponents might as well start lining up for the kick-off and on this occasion he turned Denis Irwin inside out before chipping delicately over Peter Schmeichel. It was a masterful goal and effectively won the

That had been tilted towards Leeds anyway after five minutes when Nicky Butt's hand made contact with the ball and the referee awarded a penalty. It seemed the official might make contact with a Bruce uppercut, too, as the Manchester United

captain went ballistic over the decision but fortunately Schmeichel intervened.

"There were 10 reasons at least to give a free-kick in that situation," Ferguson protested later, "attackers climbing on top of defenders etc, yet he gave a penalty kick. It was a surprising decision to say the least.

Even Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, was bemused. "I haven't got a clue why he awarded it." he said but, if the evidence of a crime was flimsy. the punishement was emphatic. Gary McAllister driving the ball into the top right hand corner.

Buoyed by that, Leeds played some delightful football that would have probably eclipsed United even if they had been at full strength.

Brian Deane hit the bar with a chip while Yeboah was through a second time only to be denied by Schmeichel. As a consequence Leeds had

to be content with just one more goal that was inspired by the best attacking influence on the pitch, Tomas Brolin. The Swede was a joy throughout -"I bought him to fulfil a certain function and he got nearer today," Wilkinson said - flicking and passing in a manner that has been absent at Elland Road since, dare one say it, Eric Can-

Certainly there was plenty to one and ah about in Leeds 73rd minute goal, Brolin linking with Cariton Palmer on the right before dummying to shoot. As the United defenders flinched he instead chipped delicately to the penalty spot where Deane headed powerfully into the cor-

a sombre thought lifted only by Andy Cole's 30th minute goal, only his fourth this season. Nicky Butt dispossesed Gary Speed and passed to Cole who shot on the volley was crisp and low enough to beat Mark Beeney even though the ball passed by no more than a four

The £7m man was trans formed by that and instead of a misfit he suddenly looked a striker of substance again. "The him," Ferguson said. "He had five strikes and each one was on target. For some reason the phrase "clutching at straws" came to mind.

Laeds: United (4-3-1-2): Seeney: Kelly, Wetherall, Jobson, Dorlgo: Pelmer, McAllister, Speed; Brailin; Yeboah (Wallace, Bill), Deane. Substitutes (not used): Radebe, Worthington. Manchester United (4-4-1-1: Schmeiche G Nestle, Bruce (9 Nestle, 79), Parier (M 7-9), Ivar; Butt, Keste, McCleir, Becktern (S holes, 74); Cantona: Cole. Referenc D Gellagher (Banbury). mce: 39,801.

FA Carling Premiership

Leeds Utd (2)3 Man Utd (1)......1

McAllister 6 (pen) (recoah 36, Deane 73 39.801 Saturday	Cole 30
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Endsleigh League First Division

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WEEKEND RESULTS

ond Division	BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premi
emouth2 Hull City0 ord City1 Oxford Utd0 I Rovers1 Crewe2	Division: Sigo 2 University College Dubi O. Friday: Athlone 2 Cork Cry 4: Drogher 1 St Parnch's Athlene 3; Shelbourne 2 G. way O. Leading positions: 1 St Parnch
ey Bristol City	(P18, Pts36); 2 Sign (18-32); 3 Bohen ans (17-31).
mbe2 Shewabury0	BEAZER HONES LEAGUE Premier Division Burton Albion 1 Chelmsion 1; Glauces

n 2 Rushden and Diamonds ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Boreha

Wood 2 Purfieet 1: Bromley 0 Bishop's Start-ford 2; Carshalton 5 Walton and Hersham 2; Grays 6 Wortning 0; Harrow Borough 3 Enfield 1; Molesey 0 Hayes 2; Yeading 2 St Albans City 1; Yeovil Town 1 Chertsey Tow O. Leading positions: 1 Enfeld (P21, 45); 2 Boreham Wood (19-40); 3 Carshalton (18-

MALIAN LEAGUE: Cremonese 1 Torino 1 Forentina 2 Milan 2, "temponale 4 Caglan 0; Juventus D Poma 2," 200 5 Atalanta 12 Padova 1 Piacenza 1; Parma D Vicenza 1; Udinese 1 Ban 2: Sampdona 2 Napoli 2 Leading positions: 1 Milan (P15, P130); 2 Florentina (15-29); 3 Parma (15-27). DUTCH LEAGUE: Fortuna Settard O Grotengen O; De Graafschap 5 Sparta Rotterdam Willem II Tilburg 1 Go Anead Eagles Deventer 2; RMC Waahnijk 2 Heerenveen 3. Lead-ing positions; 1 Ajar (P17, PsA9); 2 PSV Eindhoven (18-4-); 3 Hearenveen (18-32). BELGIAN LEAGUE: YV Mechelen 2 St Truiden 0; Ghent 1 Cercle Bruges 5; Lommet Beveren I Charletoi 1: Anderlecht 4 Germanal Breren 2. Leading positions: 1 Club Bruges (P20, Pts44); 2 Ancertecht (20-42):

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Sporting Lisbon. 4 trela da Amadora 1 Leca 0; Salgueros 0 Bra-Campomakvense Ut Tirsense 1 Boawsta 2 rães O Porto 2. Friday: Felguleras 1 Benica 2. Leading positions: 1 Porto (P15. Pts41); 2 Sporting Lisbon (15-36); 3 Ser. LEAGUE OF WALLES: Bangor City 3 Phyl 1;

4 Aberystyruth Town O: Inter Cardiff 2 Conmatches postponed. Leading positions: 1 Barry Town (P18, Pts44); 2 Flint (21-43); 3 Banger Cay (21-38). PRICE AND YMENIAI HIGH AND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistie O Deveronvale 1: Cove Rangers 3 Huntly 1; Peterhead 1 Frasersurgh

Briton Ferry 1 Blarry Town 6; First Town Utd

Football

GM VALIXHALL CONFERENCE Bath City v Famborough Bromsgrove v Kidderminste Dover v Welling (11.30) ter (11 30) . Hednesford v Kettering

Macclesfield v Telford Northwich v Altrincham

COS LEAGUE Premier Division: Sishop's Startond v Hitchn; Chertsey v Wingstonian; Durwerh v Bramley: Erfield v Aylesbury (11.30); Hayes v Harrow Borougi (11.15); Hendon / Yeading (11.130); Purflect v Gray; Hendon / Yeading (11.130); Purflect v Gray; Hendon / Yeading (11.130); Purflect v Gray; 11.10); Statur Utz v Carshaiton (11.130); Walton & Herstann v Molessy (11.10); Walton & Herstann v Molessy (11.10); Walton & Herstann v Molessy (11.10); Martin v Basngatoke; Bartan Roves v Maronw (11.10); Bleeficay v Barting (11.130); Cheshaim v Berkhamsted (11.0); Leyton Pennant v Heybridge Swits (11.0); Leyton Pennant v Heybridge Swits (11.0); Leyton Pennant v Heybridge Swits (11.0); Stames v Wolangham; Thame v Doford Chr. Whytelsafe v Libridge (11.130); Second Division: Bartistea v Coydon (11.0); Carwey Island v Cother Row (12.0); Edgrave v Chaffort, St. Peter; Eghern v Bedford; Leatherheed v Dorlang (11.30); Tibury v Seffron Walden; Witham v Wwenhoe (11.0); That Division: Camberley v Epsom and Ewel; Claston v East Thurrock; Harrior v Henriford (11.0); Hortharch (11.30); Knighton v Wealstonne (11.0); Northarch v Wingare & Finchley; Windsor & Eton v Packwell Heath (11.0).

LINBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Barn-

ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Bishop's

v Racionel Heath (11.0).

UNBOND LEAGUE Pressier Division: Barner Bruge v Accineon Stanley: Barnow v Byth Spartaris: Bishop Auckland v Sperinymoor; Buston v Matocic Droylsden v Mrowsley; Emley v Frickey; Gainsporough v Boston Utd; Guseley v Chorley; Leek v Hyde; Marme v Cohyn Bay, Winstond Utd v Witton Albon.
First Divisione Curbon Ashton v Ashton Utd; Eastwood Town v Bradelor Park Avenue; Farsley Ceftic v Hamogan Town (11.30); Gretna : Great Hamodol (2.0); Lancaster v Netherfeld; Radclife Borough v Leigh FMI (12.0); Wennigton v Congleton; Workington Feetwood (2.0); Worksop v Alfreton (11.0).

(11.0).

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier Division: Atherstone v VS Rugby (11.0): Baldock v Rustdert Chelmsford v Gravesend (11.30); Cheltscham v Gloucester: Crawley v Hastmas: Toorbester v Saisbury; Gresley Rovers v Burtom Abom (11.30); Halesowen Town v Wordeser: Illeston v Stafford (12.0); Revenut AFC v Merthw Todii (11.0); Sudbury Isam v Carrhodge Cry. Middlend Division: Bedworth v Dudley (12.0); Bury Town v Kingd Lynn: Cotty : Genetham (12.0); Evestam's Reduted (11.30); Hindley Town v Leisester Urd (11.0); Moor Green v Sohvall Boroug: (12.0); Potrwell v Budong Warwed, v Bilston (12.0); Potrwell v Budong Tim (10.11.30); Taming V Burdong V Budong V Budong V Budong V Sutton (12.0); Potrwell v Budong V Budong Staff (11.30); Taming Warwed, v Bilston (12.0); Potrwell v Budong Tim (11.30); Taming V Budong V Bu Coloried (11.0); Ricong Warwook v Bisson (12.0); Pothwell v Budungtam Town (11.30); Stournage v Britghorth (11.30); Senventh v Nuneaton Borough (11.0); Southern Deviation Ashford v Forbndge (11.30); Brangree v Brith & Belvedere (11.15); Onderford v Forest Green Roven (11.30); Fisher v Warwoodle (11.30); Mangate v Sitting-Vateroodle (11.30); Mangate v Sitting-

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FA Carling Premierable	30 Barnet v Mansfield
1 Arsenal v QPR (12.0)	31 Cambridge Utd v W
- Blackburn v Marichester City (8.0)	32 Cardiff v Chester
2 Aston Villa v Liverpool	33 Coichester v Leyton
3 Chelsea v Wimbledon (12.0)	34 Darlington y Donca
4 Everton v Middlesbrough	- Exeter v Torquay (1,1
5 Nottingham Forest v Sheffield Wed	35 Gilliogham v Plymor

6 Southampton v Tottenham (12.0)... West Ham v Coventry (12.0) Endsleigh League

First Division 8 Barnstey v Stoke (12.0). 9 Charton v Portsmouth(12.0) 10 Crystal Palace v Luton (12.0)

11 Huddersfield v Derby - Leicester v Ipswich (11.30) 12 Normich v Southend 13 Port Vale v West Brom (12.0)..... 14 Sheff Utd v Birmengham (12.0) ..., 1.5 Sunderland v Grimsby - Watford v Reading (11.30) 17 Wolves v Millwell ,.... Second Division 18 Blackpool v Burnley..

19 Brentford'y Brighton (12.0) 20 Bristol City v Swansea 21. Chesterfield v Peterborough 22 Crewe v Wresham 23 Hull y Notts County ... 24 Oxford Utd v Bournemouth 25 Rotierham v Welsell 27 Stockport v Carlisle (12.0) 28 Swindon v Wycombe

29 York v Bradford City

bourner, Newport IoW v Basiney (12.0): Poole v Weymouth; Weston-super-Mare v C 11.0); Yare v Trowbridge (11.30). GREAT MILLS (LAGUE Premier Division: Bideford v Barnstaple; Basington v Backwell; Bristol Manor Farm v Managussield (11.0); Chapterwarn: Caine (11.0); Ernote v Twar-ton (11.0); Rotrie v Paulion (11.0); Odd Down v Westbury (11.0).

HEREMARD LIMITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Cogenhos v Northamb-ton Spencer (11.0); synashury v St. Nors (11.0); hobigach v Beston Toum (11.30); //empston v Wootton Bus Cross (11.0); New-port Pagnel v Long Buckty (11.0); Raunds v Weltingborough (11.0); Sauding v Bourne (11.0); Stamfurt v Meries Backsons; Stew-arts 3; Llogic Corbs v Desborough (11.0); INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE CLLOR Barwell v Hundley Abrietic: Barkenall v Rushall Olympic; Boldinere St Michael'a v Chaserown: Briehall Swets v Shifmat:

POOLS CHECK net v Mansfeld (1.0) nbridge Utd v Wigan

hester v Leyton Orient (12:0) ington y Doncaster ... er v Torquay (1,1.0) ... ognam v Plymouth ... 36 Hartiepool y Scarborough. 37 Lincoln v Fulham ... 38 Northamoton v Hereford

39 Rochdale v Preston 40 Scunthorpe v Bury...... Bell's Scottish League Premier Division

41. Fatkirk v Aberdeen (Off) 42 Hearts v Motherwell (11.00insp). 43 Partick v Hiberrian 44 Raith Rovers v Celtic (9:30 insp)

45 Rangers v Kilmamock

First Division 46 Airdrie v St Marten .

52 Forfar v East Fife ...

48 Dumberton v Dumlermline .. 49 Dundee Littly Hamilton 50 St Johnstone v Morton... Second Division 51. Ayr v Clyde

47 Clydebank v Dundee (Off) ...

53 Queen of South v Stenhousemuir 54 Stranger v Berwick Taird Division - Albion v Caledonian Thistie 26 Civersbury v Bristol Rvis (12.0) ... 55 Brechin v Alloa (Off)) 56 Cowdenbeath v East Stirling .. 57 Livingston v Queen's Park.....

Halesowen Hamers v Oldbury; Rocester v Myn-persley Victoria; Sandwell Borough v West Midlards Police; Shepshed Dynamo v Stapenhilt; Stratford v Pershore.

58 Ross County v Arbroath ...

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-vision (11.0): Cacton v Harwort, Diss v Wat-ton; Great Varmouth v Lowestoft, Haverhill v Haisteed: March v Wisbech; Newmarker v Schem; Stowmarker v Hadleigh; Sudium; Wanders v Sudium; Tomes v Cornant; Woodbridge v Felustowe: Whosham v Feld-ennam.

NORITH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Di-visions Bootle v Marié Rosd (2.30); Cicheros v Biacispool Rosers; Esswood Hamley v Ydds-grove (1.1.0); Glosson North End v Fistons, Hoher Old Bors v Peneth; Namwork v New-castle Town (1.2.0); Rossendale v Darwen (1.2.0); St Helens v Prescot (1.0); Salford v Chadderton; Stelmersdale v Burscough; Fratherty & Migration; NORTHERN COUNTRY EAST LEASUE Pro-

Methy (11.0); Hallern v Spotesbridge (11.0); Desett Albion v Hadield Main. UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-vision (11.0): Burgess Hill v Hassacies Cros-borough v Ringmer; Hallsham v Basticourie Fown; Horsham YMCA v Mille Oal; Largney Sporre v Stamoor; Pascetasen & Talscomber v Vitteshamic Portfield v Regisary, Showham v Southwick; Tirse Bridges v Oelwood; Wick v Annyfel

WINISTORIEAD KENT LEASUE First Division: Beclanium v Cockenhill (11.0); Dartford Viumess (11.0); Dear v Carashur (2.15); Follestone invicta v Ransgate (11.30); Shappey v Chatham (12.0). LEASUE OF WINLES: Abenetwith v Caeraws; Bangor City's Holywell; Barry v Ebber Vole; Baton Ferry Vinter Cardiff, First v Corwy, New-town v Cornain's Quey; Rhy's Lienseroffreid; Tory Pentre v Carmbran.

SARPHOFF BESN LEAGUE Premier Divi-sions Arda v Bangar; Cithondile v Crusedens; Gentpean u Lindels; Portadown v Gentavon. First Divisions Ballyclare v Ortagh; Colemains v Carrick, Rangers, Larne v Ballymens; Newry v Displiery.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Promier Division: Deny City v Bohemiens (2,45); Shamrock Rovers v Dungalk (2,15). Rugby League

STONES CENTENARY CHAMPIONEMP-Bradford v Haktax (3.0); Leeds v Castleford (11,30); Odham v Warmegon (3.0); Wigen v S Heiers (3.0). First Divisions Batiley v Devadury (12,30); Festherstore v Waterfield (11,30); Vegether v Rodridels (3.15); Widnes v Saltord (3.0). Second Division: Carllela v Barrow (2.0); Chorley v Highfield (3.0); Hull 1R v York (3.0); Hursiet v Bramley (3.30); Swinton v Leign (3.0).

Rugby Union TEMMENT'S SOUTTENH REGIONAL LEAGUE (Soutth): Gela v Metrose (2.0); Jed-Forest v Hawick (2.0); Selidrik v Kelso (2.0). CLUB MATCHES: Aberavon v Cardiff Insti-

CLUB MATCHES: Aberavon v Cardiff Institute (2.30); Aspairla v Wigon (2.0); Bedfordshire (3.0); Birmingham Solimuli v Silfuliaris (11.0); Camborne v Redruth (2.30); Cardiff v Portigridi (2.30); Chelterinam v Stoud (2.30); Euters v President's XV (3.0); Gloucester v Lydney (3.0); High Wicombe v Chalman's XV (2.30); Lancell v London Weish (2.30); London thish v Old Mibrillians (3.0); Massing v Bridgand (2.30); Massing v Coverny (3.0); Neeth v Borynneen (2.30); Neethort v Bridgand (2.30); Northampton v Stirling County (3.0); Worthern v Newcastle (2.30); Otley v Leeds (2.15); Penarthi v Old Penarthians (11.0); Pontypool Uaf v On Prysol (2.30); Preston Gassinapast v Fytos (2.15); Sale v Brougffon Park (3.0); Treordy v Penging (2.30); Wastledde v North Ribblesdale (2.30).

Hockey R L HOLLAND MEMORAL MATCH: Cheam:

ice Hockey

Biottesi LEAGLE Premder Diseitor: Sadrig-stoke v Sheffield (3.0); Cashif v Nottingham (3.0); Piez Diseitora: Durnities v Marrayfield (7.30); Seifull v Guidlord (2.30); Telford v Medusy (8.0);

ner of the net. It left Leeds supporters dele-rious and Mancurians refelecting on a haul of three points from a possible last 15.

feet from his toes.

Goels: McWheter (5 mm, pan) 1-0; Cole (29) 1-1; Yeboah (35) 2-1; Deans (72) 3-1.

Southerness of consequent styles to be of the state of the styles of the

yespes me expected to be un-hanged although fush has recovered our list landings operator and is dis-coping by selection. Villa hips that standing scorer furier is giftly reported to handled by several and in the second

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sport

Rowell left scarred by mauling in the endless ruck

is anything but a season of dwill for Jack Rowell and, even comfortably and comfortingly faiar territory watching his oncejoved Bath's epic Pilkington Cup patch of Northampton, the Eng-id manager was looking thorghly uncomfortable.

Accountability, or its apportionent between players and coaches, an age-old sporting commonum and in the aftermath of England's insatisfactory though scarcely alamitous performance against Vestern Samoa the balance ap-lears to have swung decisively

It is no exaggeration to say that n some quarters the manager has aken a metaphorical shoeing equivalent to that which, more interally, is known down under as New Zealand rucking methods and which Rowell himself attempted to instil

gave a tackle-bag a memorable go-ing-over in Wanganui in 1992. He did not succeed then and he is patently not succeeding now, either in the battle to change the way his players play or in the other bat-tle, the public-relations one - which post-Samoa really has been calamitous. The well-appointed press box at the Recreation Ground neatly symbolised the dichotomy between Rowell and his accusers, with the manager one side of the glass in the wireless zone and the writers looking at him askance from the other side.

And ne'er the twain did meet, nor will they if our understanding of Rowell's extreme perturbation is true. All queries about England's training and selection for the French game in Paris on 20 January are referred by Rowell to Colin Her-Rowell himself attempted to instil ridge, the Rugby Football Union's in his England B players when they media man, who then of course has

to ask Jack. Which is plain daft. Anyone who heard Rowell's in-terview with Ian Payne on Radio Five Live will have realised that here is a man who is struggling to restrain his incandescence. Payne was doubt-less glad he was far away at the other end of the line, and there came a point when the producer was anx iously wondering whether Rowell would carry on as agreed to be the second voice during the match com-For the record, Rowell never

blamed the media - not in as many words, anyway - for the way England approached the Samoa match; the actual culprit was Will Carling, the captain, who told a television interviewer in the tunnel immediately after the final whistle that "the impression from the media was that we would put 50 points on them". It would be interesting to know what part of which medium was re-

COMMENTARY

sponsible for this misapprehension though, even if it were so, the responses of both Rowell and Carling indicate that their team are astoundingly suggestible. But it seems to me the erroneous expectation came rather from an ignorant Twickenham crowd - those outside and not inside the press box - and that the poverty of England's performance owed as much to the disruption contract negoatiations with the RFU as to the way they tried to play.

Of more pressing concern for Rowell at the Rec - after he had told his radio listeners that the nation and complaisant media needed to get behind his team, that is - was the performance of the leaders of the First Division against the leaders of the Second. That Bath eked out a 12-3 victory through three Jonathan Callard penalties to one by Paul Grayson on a morass of a pitch under leaden skies would tell its own baleful tale if in fact the match had not been a magnificent spectacle fit to cheer even not-so-jolly Jack's

Indeed here were two teams committed to playing the very rugby of which Rowell has spoken so often. and tempering their free-running aspirations with occasional appropriate deference to the demands of the

f only England could manage some-

thing similar against France . . . Moreover, this tie was a lesson for the law-makers as well as instructive for the England manager. Even before the new imperative of professionalism there was too much tampering in the interests of "enterand if ever a game showed that "entertainment" does not necessarily consist of an endless series of tries and manufactured movement this was it.

All the talk - of which there is plenty - about removing basic elements of the rughy union game should thus be treated with contempt, because the alternative would be an ersatz concoction of next to no merit. It is time, instead, to declare ourselves unashamedly and wholeheartedly in favour of rucks

Northampton's presence in the

be sadly missed because their intrepid display at Bath, significantly superior to anything achieved by this season's league vistors there, proved them already to be of upper First Di-vision quality. From the actual First Division, Orrell and Sale will also be absent, the North-west's cup challenge having been ended by London in the shape of Harlequins and Wasps respectively.

Winnington Park of the Fifth Division North are the lowliest quali-fiers for the last 16. Leeds of the Fourth Division saw off Waterloo of the Second and Coventry of the Third did likewise to Blackheath of the Second. Among those joining them are Newcastle, who can now look forward to having England's most-capped stand-off eligible to play in the fifth round. Better not mention Rob Andrew to big Jack, though.

. Life goes on at rock bottom

Survival is the goal at Torquay, holding up the League, and in the home of Fawity Towers a sense of humour is important as well, says Clive White

Rooted at the bottom of the this season they couldn't have football League six done much worse if Basil was running the team. An 8-1 home United is to the town's sporting endeavour what Pawity Towers is to its hotel industry. Apparently, the local council regard the club as a bit of comedy, too, which probably ill-befits its smart English Riviera image.

While Torquey Athletic Rugby Club sits resplendent beside the bay next to the Grand Hotel, poor old Plainmoor is tucked away like Cinderella in a corner

of the town largely unloved, blame Mike that. If the team

ver - 2 am

. - 21

good footballers as the chairman railway track' is a publicist they would be top of the league.

every ruse imaginable to bring stemmed the rot. the club more success/bigger crowds, from signing Justin Fashanu to painting the visitors' dressing room a sleepy pink (or was that Fashanu's dressing room?). All to no avail. Likewise the visit he recently made the players take to the or five seasons at most we'll be opticians when results didn't

bear scrutiny any more. "It sion. Of course, we weren't. In to turn it into a wasn't intended as a dig at the fact we were relegated the very is what I did." players, although the later one was when I suggested they ought to have brain scans." Didn't they object? "They didn't indenstand it," he said.

defeat - their biggest in the league for 62 years - precipi tated the departure of Don O'Riordan and the arrival of Eddie May from Cardiff. Since when results have improved marginally. Now they lose 8-4, as at Walsall after extra time in an FA Cup replay, having hit both posts with one shot in the 91st minute when the score was 3-3. At least it made a

change from

being eliminat-

ed by non-

lows in a line of

some distin-

guished man-

Plainmoor in-

cluding Frank

O'Farrell and

and practically had more close that you could calls than a Bateson for Silent-movie were half as star tied to a

Bruce Rioch, has an extensive knowledge of the Third Di-Bateson, a self-made mil-lionaire, has tried just about manager and appears to have

It wasn't always like this. In Bateson's first year as chairman five seasons ago they gained promotion in the play-offs by beating Blackpool, his home town club. "I thought, this is a piece of cake'," he said. "In four promoted to the First Divi-

"At the start I thought a cou-



over from the heart. Reality takes a hold when you're physically writing out cheques for fifty and a hundred thousand you've gone a certain way down the road and you have to ask yourself do you run away from put a little bit more in and try to turn it into a business, which

His "injections" almost turned into a complete blood ple of hundred thousand in- transfusion, reaching almost jected into it could help it a lot. £1.5m before he called a halt. He said they would try to run Silly me. There comes a time. He expects the club to make a with a tight but full profession-Judging by United's fortunes however, at most football clubs profit for the third consecutive al squad for the first season in recent inquiry from a Premier rot sketch, though, Bateson, Fourth Division, even their elec-

when the head starts to take year thanks to the sale of Gre- the hope of bouncing straight Bosman business, of course, threatens to put a stop to such pounds. Of course, by then nice little earners, in fact the very existence of this club and many more like it. Torquay make a heavier investment than it and let the whole thing crum- most in youth devlopment with ble around your ears or do you a dedicated officer and a purpose-built lodge. Bateson reck-ons they need to net about £150,000 a year in transfer fees

to balance the cash flow. Relegation would cost the club about £300-350,000 a year.

gory Goodyear to Queen's Park back. Admission prices, only £6 Rangers for £350,000. The and £3 as it is, would have to be further reduced in what he describes as "this cold bed of football". He tried offering under 11-year-olds a £10 season ticket and set aside 500 places. They closed the offer after three

months, having sold 150.
"Football clubs are a very strange business," he said, "unlike any other. Most businesses know where they'll be in six or 12 months barring a recession or whatever. Who knows how our finances would have changed had that shot in injury Pythonesque," he said. time at Walsall gone in or if a

League club for one of our players comes to fruition. Actually, if somebody like Newcastle would care to give me a ring I'll take £1m off them for any of my players. In fact I'll take £1m off

them for all of our players." Someone once described him as looking like a lean version of the comedian Mike Reid, but Bateson's got a much better sense of humour. He's needed it. "In the back of my mind I still can't help thinking there's something rather ridiculous about men dressed in shorts chasing a ball around a field - a little bit

Don't mention the Dead Par-

who is president of the local tion was reputed to be the re-RSPCA, has about 40 of them sult of a dubiously contested secin an aviary at his home - "they talk a lot of sense". His grandfather was the curator at Blackpool Zoo so he was brought up

animals. It probably explains why he vetoed the commercial department's ferret racing day. He remains optimistic that Torquay's uneventful League history will see out its 69th year. As the late Peter Cook a railway track." Appropriate-

with a healthy appreciation of

ond ballot with Aberdare.

"Barring suicide. I can see myself being here for quite a few years, but I'd rather not be," he said, acknowledging that the club with its thriving pub-cumrestaurant-cum-night club - "it's like the black hole of Calcutta on Friday and Saturday nights"would be ideal for asset-stripping. "It would have to be someone with the same spirit. If anybody once said of his home town club: has a yearning to run a south De-"They've had more close calls von football club I could make than a silent movie star tied to it happen for them. An offer which would allow me anything ly, founder members of the approaching financial dignity

Kilmarnock set out to end the curse of the Old Firm

Brown insists Alex Totten's but in recent games against half-time and ended up losing side can succeed where they failed recently against Cehic to concentration at vital times and "None of us could believe m Brown believes Kil- claim their first win in 14 attempts you cannot afford that."
Thock can banish their Old against either of the big Glasgow Kilmarnock were 2-0 m hoodoo today against clabs. "Beating either Rangers or impions Rangers at Ibrox. Celtic can give you a massive lift Brown's header putting Premier Division leaders and we must believe we can go firmly in the driving seat after train Kilmarnock only two to Ibrox and win," Brown said.

Ally Mitchell's opening goal, but they conceded two goals in 60 I there a couple of seasons ago, seconds two minutes before

Kilmarnock were 2-0 up at Celtic earlier this month, Brown's header putting them

what happened that day and we were all gutted in the dressingroom afterwards," Brown said. We feel if we had held the 2-0 lead to half-time we would definitely have come away from Parkhead with at least a draw and maybe even a win.

"Since then we have beaten Falkirk and Partick but were hammered at Aberdeen in between. We need to show some consistency, as the season is entering a vital period for us with a handful of clubs bunched to-

gether near the bottom." Kilmarnock have battled their way to survival in the last two seasons and he believes points

tween survival and relegation. "It is very important at this stage when you play a number of games in a short period. Any points you can pick up now can set you up for the later stages."

Rangers have Paul Gas-coigne and Oleg Salenko available after suspension, but Ally

Sheffield Steelers closed to within just four points of the British League leaders Cardiff Devils thanks to Tim Cranston's five goals in their thrilling 8-6 win against Nottingham Parithers on Springer.

won over the Christmas period McCoist and Stuart McCall are could prove the difference be- out with calf injuries. Gary Bollan and Alex Cleland are doubtful, but Rangers will welcome back Gascoigne, who has been banned for two matches.

Celtic have no injury worries ahead of their visit to Raith, although Peter Grant and John Hughes complete three-match suspensions.

TODAY'S NUMBER

2

The number of holes-in-one in successive shots that golfers John Legarza and Tom Gabelman hit when playing together in Dayton.

lice's heroics fail to lift 49ers record. The kick was also the

erican football

Je Rice, of the San Francis-

all is receptions leader, setinfiew single season receiving lage record in the process.

Hever, Rice's heroics failed
to sithe Super Bowl champions ing 28-27 to the Atlanta
Falc on Christmas Eve. The
defe blowed a run of six wins
in sussion for the Apers.

Ricaght 12 passes for 153
yards ainst the Falcons, the
catch costing his career total
to Maree more than Philadelphia's Monk, who came into
Sunda game against Chicago
with receptions; but suffered soken arm.

Rice7-yard reception from

Ricay yard reception from
Steve bg in the second quarter med him past Charley
Hemistof the 1961 Houston Oilers the single-season reception mage leader. Rice finished in 1,848 yards, 102 more the lennigan

Atlanthose success was or-

All the state of t

chestrated by Bobby Herbert who replaced the injured Jeff George late in the first half when the Falcons were trailing cors, has become the NFTs 21-13 - who thew a pair of all receptions leader, set-touchdown passes to Terance

Atlanta's Morten Andersen also got himself in the record books with a 59-yard field goal that gave him seven of 50 yards

fourth longest in NFL history. Kansas City finished with the NFL's best record, 13-3, beating Seattle 26-3 to seal homefield advantage for the play-offs. auventiage for the pisy-Oils. MFI Atlanta 28 San Francisco 27; Housann 28 Buffalo 17; Chengh 20 Philadathia 14; Chrisma 27 Minneston 24; Green Bey 24 Pritisungh 19; Incideorolle 24 Clemetard 21; Kannes City 25 Seatile 3; New Orleans 12 NY Jess 0; Deruer 31 Oakland 28; Misum 41 St. Louis 22; Westington 20 Canalisa 17; San Diego 27 NY Gibra 17; Detroil 37; Tempa Bay 19; Incideorol 20 Canalisa 17; San Diego 27 NY Gibra 17; Detroil 37; Tempa Bay 19; San 27 NY Gibra 17; Detroil 37; Tempa Bay 19; San 20; San 20

more this season, an NFL	10; Indianapolis10 New England 7
NFL STA	INDINGS
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ISTERN DIVISION W. L. I. PF. PA	EASTERN DIVISION Debu 11 4 0 398 278
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Towers look impregnable

DUNCAN HOOPER

in the Budweiser League, despite taking an early Christmas break. Leopards provide a London double at the top of the table after Saturday's 92-80 win at Manchester Giants, where the 6ft 9in Kenny Scott scored 19 points on his debut in his latest return from injury.
The Sharks are still in touch

won 84-75 at Newcastle Comets on Friday. Bottom of the table Hemel

Basebali

Basketball

Basketball London Towers head for the New Year with a four-point lead

and like Leopards are four points behind London. They

Royals, chasing only their third league win of the season were tied at 83-83 with a minute to play at home to Doncaster Pan-thers. But Steve Merifield netted two late baskets and then a free throw gave Doncaster the win by five points as Hemel failed to score again.

The St Louis Cardinals signed high-priced free agents Ron Gant and Andy Benes to long contracts on Saturday, just one day after an agreement was reached t sell the team, keeping it in St Louis.

NBA: Cranioto 67 Marm 75, Cleveland 97 Indiana 96, Oriando 94 Detroit 79, New York 103 Toronto 91, New Jersey 98 Priladlepha 85, Minnesota 111 Delles 98, Chucago 100 Utath 86, San Antonio 110 Houston 95, LA Cappers 107 Derive 92, Minnesota 111, I Acalers 102 Portland 99, Sentre 118 Washington 100.

Badweiter League (Setundary): Deroy Storm 105, Samusis 21, Merion 20, Humbring 191 Newcastie Comets 82 (Saundary): Deroy Storm 105, Samusis 21, Merion 20, Humbring 191 Newcastie Comets 82 (Saundary): Deroy Storm 105, Samusis 21, Merion 100, Humbring 191 Newcastie Comets 82 (Saundary 21, Leopards 92 (Balaer 26, Younghlood 19, Fizz 165, Bormargham Bulletta 83 (Dorasy 22, Lloyd 20, Gordon 191 Whothing Bears 90 (Insh 32, Cunningam 28, Baley 12), Hemel Royals 83 (Schutz 27, Semon 25; Pringle 81 Doncaster Parthers 88 (Battill 25, Eder 24, Meter 161, Thames Valley Tigers 92 (Holley 24, Scandishury 21, Mitter 18) Chester Jets 87 (Boone 34, Peers 11, Mullings/Ogley 10).

British League Premier Division (Satunday): Besingstoke Biscor 2 Notivegam Panthers 5, File Flyers 4 Newcastle Warmers 1. First Di-vision: Ballingham Bornbers 1. Blackburn Blackburks 12: Bracinel Bees 15 Solihult Berons 2; Cheimstord Cherbars 10 Peter-borough Printes 10; Dumfirles 1 Manchester Storm 9; Medway Beans 3 Guntdord Flames 8; Murrawfield Royas 1 Swindon Wildcars 19; Telford Tigers 8 Pausley Prates 5 NHL (Satunday): Boston 7 Tampa Bay 5, Philadelphia 3 Hartland 3 (DR, NY Islanders 3 Washington 1, Flonda 2 New Jersey 1, Mon-treal 1 Pittsburgh 0, Toronto 6 Edmonton 1, Winnipég 2 St. Lous 1, Chicago 2 Dellas 0, Buffalo 4 Ottawa 2, Colordo 2 Los Angeles 2 (VII), Detroit 1 Vancouver 0.

Rugby League

The International Cricket Council has The International Cricket Council has cleared the Sn Lankas of ball-tamper-ing during the first Test against Australie, when the umpires warned Arjuna Ranatunga's side about the state of the ball, The ICC has also criticised the um-pires. Peter Parker and Pakistan's Khiz-er Hayat, for not changing the ball at the time. Stones Contenery First Division (Christmas. Eve): Huddersheit 10 Hut 23. Seturday; SRk Cut Cheffange Cup Second round replay: Egement 13 Woolston 6.

SPORTING DIGEST Rugby Union

Rob Warnwright, the Scotland captain who played for West Hartlehool in the Pillington Cup on Saturday, will join Wassonians in the New Year. "It was always going to be Edinburgh Academicals or Watsonians but when Academicals were relegated the decision was then easy," he said.

easy," he said.
Southof Scotland produced their strongest display so far in the Scotlish inter-district championship to record their second victory at Murrayfield, beating Glasgow 23-5 on Christmas Eve.

Ctristmas Eve: Terments inter District Championship: South of Scotland 23 Gles-gow District 5. Settler-Provincial Championships: Connecht 11 Muniter 46, Lensler 31 Ulster 3. 11 Munstor 46, Lensier 31, Ulster 3.
PBidington Cup fourth round: Bath 12
Northampton 3, Bedford 27 Worcester 12, Blackheath 9 Coventy 19, Camberley 0 Waterled 18, Eveter 0 Lencester 27. Goucester 47.
Walsall 0, Leces 20 Waterloo 15, London linsh 21 London West 3, Newcaster Gosform 26
Moseley 5, Nottingtem 32 London Scottish 16, Orrel 17 Harlequers 19, Rauding 7 Bratol 44, Sale 9 Wages 18, Saracens 27 Rugby 7, Weston-super-Mare 9 West Hardepool 25, Winnington Park 26 Lydney 11.
Helmalean Welsh League First Division: Alper-

Helmelean Welsh League First Division: Aber-tiller) 33 Newpor 50, Carolft 28 Neath B. Ebbw Vale 25 Systemsea 0, Newtondge 25 Bridgend 22, Treorchy 10 Llanely 43

22, incurry II bears 32.

Second blesson: Camphaly 13 Pontypool 6, Massing 27 Bonymaen 14, lenty 9 Landquery 12, voredgenkas 16 Abertynon 11.

Scottish Temports Championship Regional League East one: Edinburgh Wanderers 15 Bonoghumar 32, Preston Lodge 32 Curne 7, gast two Contonans 22 Dunder HSPP 26, Karkstikk O Effethyung Activenere 58.

South: Langnoim 3 Peebles 18. West: Ayr 37 String Courty 20, Glasgow Academicals 10 West of Scotland 23. 10 West of Scotland 23.

Club matches: Bern Hill 37 Hereford 15, Burningham Solmul 11 Bromsgrove 8, Fylide 28 Vale of Lune 10, Hawarn 24 Bournemouth 20, Henley 22 Manderhead 13, Kendal 15 Meddlesbrough 3, Morley 41 Bradford & Burgev 17, North Weisham 22 Norwich 9, Numeaton 9 Cheltenham 31, Reduch 24 Pertraince 5, Richmord 53 High Wycombe 15, Sondal 35 Old Crossleyans 6, Senfield 3 Harrogate 25, Stourbridge 50 Whitchurch 19.

Tosanoums, who upset Takanohana and Amencan Akebono during the last tour-nament, was promoted by one step to lomusub – the fourth highest rank in the sport – in rankings for the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament released yesterday.

Steffi Graf, accompanied by her mother, Heidi, and brother, Michael, visited Peter Graf Friday in the Mannhem prison, where he is in investigative custody, the Bild am Sonnag newspaper reported. Peter Graf is not allowed to receive Crinistmas presents and Stefficould only give him some fruit and biscuits bought in the prison store, Bild said,

Rolex Orange Bowl International Terriss Championships (Mazrur: Boys singles finel: M. Zabeleta (Arg. Dt. 1 Huss (Gen. 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, Boys Goubles final: M. Oranta Hashad (Man) M. Zabelesa (Arg. Dt. 1 Arms Hashad (Man) M. Zabelesa (Arms Hashad (Man) M. Zabelesa (Ma Soys doubles mall: A Dreitana (Ven) M. Za-bettet Aug to H. Levy Ame Hadder Itsrael: 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, Girls angles final: Abburnikova (Rus) to S. Nacus Anglé, 6-3, 6-2, Girls dou-bles final: G. Cason M. Zavagi (III) bt. A Kournikova E. houblovskeye (Rus): 6-1, 6-3 Italo Cerullo and Matt Tench pose the questions from another puzzling year

Put names to the faces which have been blanked out during famous sporting events of 1995.

The Independent Sports Quiz of '95

36

NUMBERS GAME

1 Why were England still in with a chance facing the final ball of the match against Australia A when needing 31 to win?

2 What is the next number in the sequence: 4, 4, 0, 4, 4... and

3 For whom was 49 a suitably Super number?

4 For whom were the numbers 200 and 20.25 significant?

5 For whom was 4 the last instalment of 8,900?

6 Who scored a masterful 70, 67, 69, 68 and why was his win tinged with sadness?

7 Complete the sequence: 16-13, 16-16, 16-19, 19-19, 19-22, 22-22...

8 Which record-breaking match saw the winners score 21 tries and 20 conversions. What was the score and who scored six tries?

9 Which colonial enterprise took 85 seconds to sink without trace?

10 For whom was 45 feet not far enough?

11 In which sport did women hit

12 For whom were 17.98, 18.16 and 18.29 very special numbers?

13 For whom were 185, 492 and 645 very special numbers?

14 Whose debut resulted in 7 for 43 at Lord's?

15 For whom was 112 a Silva

CASHINCENTIVES

16 For whom was £150,000 an un-

duly taxing figure? 17 Which sports body showed distinct political incorrectness in turning down sponsorship worth £10m, and why?

18 For whom was £425,500 not worth it?

19 Which teenagers were worth £2.5m and £2m?

20 Who paid whom \$100m to dress grunge, not to shave and wear ear-rings?

15 MINUTES OF FAME

How did the following find themselves in the spotlight in 1995?

21 Matthew Simmons

22 Derek Ringer

23 Mark Johnston-Allen

24 Caroline Hall 25 Murphy Jensen

COURT CIRCULAR

Match the following to the locality of their court appearances

26 Dennis Wise

27 Eric Cantona 28 Peter Graf

29 Duncan Fenguson

30 Ray Pariour

Hong Kong, Croydon, Edinburgh, Mannheim, Horseferry Road. PLACES

31 At which unlikely venue did De-Freitas, as twelfth man, help his

side to victory this summer? 32 How did Brighton make it into

33 In which sport did a Canadian beat a Monegasque at Eastbourne?

34 Stockholm was the venue as Norway beat Germany to lift the

World Cup. In which sport?

Me Ma Liv Tot Mix Ars Noi Lee Chr Bla Eve She Sol War War Cov Boll

En

Fir

Birm Deri Crim Lutc Oldi: Port Stok Wes

Post Ipsw

Dert Sunt Leicu Birm Huck Char Stok Nort Sout Mith Oldh Trans Barn Cryst Port Watf Watf Wolv Sheft

35 In which race did London and Manchester beat Birmingham. Sheffield and Bradford?

-seroms2 sta9 or Isnit nobeldmiW 70 Goran Ivanisevic, after losing the

gance lob that won the Cup-Winners' Cup SIP-BUOI S.WINEN UO VEURESS PINEC 69 tack on a Crystal Palace fan. 68 Paul Ince (allegedly) to the Selhurst Park crowd, after Cantona's kung tu at-Twekenham. England lost 14-24.

te soint Atruo2 tenisgo Isnotismatri **ey** Mike Catt before England's rugby -striewb3 nerttenol 88 92 Сичг Епраик FA Cup final. had besten Manchester United in the 64 Neville Southall, just after Everton

63 Michael Atherton of the Ashes Nuomut filend 5 mont his coach Tim Gullikson was suffering aliriw naqO nelistrauA arti ni nwob avoi ot Crowd to beat Jim Couner from two set 62 Pete Sampras responded to the Sheffield United. **QT** Dave Bassett, erstwhile manager of

....

QUOTES

World Senes. beat the Cleveland Indians in the 60 Baseball. The Atlanta Braves 198girT olduoO 63

ed by a sudden-death extra-time the first Wembley final to be decid-Windscreens Shield - made the game against Carlisle United in the Auto 58 The goal - for Birmingham City

57 Costantino Rocca and Howard who won with Alderbrook and Master 56 Norman Williamson and Kim Sailey

9UP FOR THE CUP

55 Craug McDermott. .(61et ni 19nnw 1973, 1974 and 1977) and Rubstic (the 54 Red Rum (who was the winner in 53 Fred Perry. One racing after a proionged struggle. 52 Lotus who pulled out of Formula

51 Romano, who left Barcelona to join COMING YND GOING

50 He scored with a header. Devon and Comwall police. 46 He is now a special constable with left Ferran for Benetion. orth Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger who 47 18-year-old South African Paul

ballers' Association, with Maradona as -foot landiesational Professional Foot-45 Benedicte Tarango. 44 He wore white boots. et), Brazil (foorball).

43 Australia (rugoy), West Indies (crickty following the murder of a Genos fan. their opponents' shirts in a show of uni-42 Teams had taken the field weaming 'มกฮา SƏ ALL Each was broken to end their Ash-

SELOND SELLEF

the fifth Test at Trent Bridge. ni 18919b moni brisign3 bavisa qirlanen COURT 39 Richard Hangworth (1911) and 40 Miles nego ent as bruco 38 Amold Paimer during his last ever return after serving his ban. 37 Eric Caritona, celebrating a scoring

Forminy Morrison in October.

36 Lennox Lewis, having just floored 21대 30대 310 1 35 The location for the new national sta-34 Momen's fooball.

-quo saved acti ni-33 Termis - Greg Rusedski for Britain terroto Cup game. 32 The Goldstone Ground hosted an in--2110-yeld orth on gallossan izniege ritw E.4. an Defreitze scored twice in Bolton's 31 At Wembley, when substitute Fabi-

Z8 Mannheim 27 Croydon Magistrates' Court 26 Horseleny Road Megistrates COURT CIRCULAR

SHON SHOTH GE

25 Went missing from Wimbledon to go TIM HEATINGS

24 Wanbiedon ball-ght struck by ball hit -notement disconnembed art to brugg Isni ant ni yiboaH nanbate 1898 EX. he won the world rativing championship 35 He was Colin McCrae's co-driver as

> PIETEEN MINUTES OF FAME Chathing contract).

TIT AS Cantona's kung iu vicum.

. 30 Mile baid Andre Agassi (10-yest) Joined new clubs for huge fees bris (lisnest A of notice) notice! thrigh et. orw (loogievil of liswill M) ybanney jaski

Hauge, but was still barned for a year noisses to much required by some mortility bediction or sever -norm sift bedinsab ell imensió segroso all. The proposed sponsor was lampex tarn-

> T. The Mornegs' Tennis Association. Ve as dot at the only wild a septiment of the Poly Series of the Poly

CYZH WEBILLEZ

A noened out test their sectors acout LE . Areainda de Silva . who scored 14 Dominio Cork Rend's second fest against South Africa. enu 361 beroe one noracity beaton (81 gr.3 ni serunim 346 ni aleo 364 mon

(spuccer during anns, sing and the words the words the state of \$1

TI Choket - the 250th appropriety of 119 Cociamono, flocca, venose long-range

refit to soneopes equitoiq

and doin s'weibrit doils ay veil a

43 Which three countries did Etland play on the same weekend st 44 How did Milan's Marco Simo dazzle yet still fall to impress in the European Cup final against

41 What linked Alec Stewart's teer, Damen Gough's foot and Shau

42 Why did Serie A players swe shirts before their matches start

Udal's thumb?

on 12 February?

45 Who pinched and slapped Wimbledon umpire Bruno Rebeult

46 Which "super team" was unvelled in Pads and included Vialli, Weigh, Cantona, Rai and captained by Maradoha?

At Marre the left arm wrist spinner whose "frog in a blender" action ha caused England problems.

48 Who deserted the Prancing Horse for the knitted sweater?

49 Why won't Nigel Mansell be setting new motorsport records with his new team?

56 Why didn't Peter Schmeichel need to use his harids against Rotor Volgograd?

COMING AND GOING

51 Who returned to Rio? 52 For whom did the wheels finally stop turning after 43 years?

53 The last British man to succeed at a British sporting institution died this year. Who?

54 Which two Grand National winners went to the great stud farm in the sky?

55 Which bowler trok the final Test wickets of Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting in the same innings?

UP FOR THE 56 Which jockey and trainer double act completed the first Champion Hurdle and Gold Cup success for 45

years, and with which horses? 57 The Ryder Cup saw two holes in-

one. Who by? 58 Why was Paul Tait's goal at Wembley historic?

59 Which colt shot to victory in the Ascot Gold Cup?

化 编页编

60 in what sport were inclians beaten DON'T QUOTE ME

61 "It did not matter whether Eric Cantona or Mickey Mouse kicked him, he should not have reacted." Which manager and of which club, said this of his player, Charlie Hart-

62 "Do it for your coach, Petel" Which Pete? Who is his coach? Why did it need doing?

63 We came here with a shortterm ambition which failed. I don't think we have made any progress a Who made this bleak assessment?

64 Who said "I'm just going home to bianducino, and after which famous victory?

65 Who did Mickey Duff call

66 "They probably think I'm on drugs or something." Who said this? 67 Who called François Pienaar

average" and why did he come. 68 "Come on, we'll take you alln Who said this when?

'69 "The Gazza free kick in the Cup semi-final was bad enough

This was worse." Who was reflecting on what?

70 "All the match I was unluct Most of the time, he hit a lucishot." Which ungracious loseras talking in early July?

FINE STREET AND THE MINISTERS 1 Department augus brisismen 8 ALL PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O

THE HOSON HAIVEY ESPECIAL SOUTH Sent and Test I set in Sent in Section 1980 (1) Sent rinks of Wastern nest 8

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day's television & radio

pick of the day

EEN TWO: THE HOUR OF E PIG 10pm BBC2

建筑小山村

he medieval costume may not be s fetching as his Darry breeches but Colin Firth watchers will get a shance to see plenty of their bero in his drama based around actual court cases, recorded in the French town of Abbeville in the Middle Ages. The twist is that the defendants were. ell animals, as Firth's lawyer has to defend a pig charged with murder.



Swipe defence league: Colin Firth

To redress the balance for the Scots having colonised New Year's Eve on television – all that hoots monning round the haggis while Andy Stewart searches for his troosers - much of the Christmas schedule was devoted to pondering the state of Englishness. (Quite where this leaves Irish and Welsh viewers is unclear - down the pub, presumably, like anyone sensible.)

This seasonal theme began with A Close Shave (Christmas Eve BBC2), the latest from the country's finest film-maker, Nick Park. Wallace and Gromit, Park's Plasticine protagonists, are perfect English heroes: constipated, suburban, confused. The England he has created for them - all wool shops, Wensleydale and wacky wallpaper -After encountering a mad slot-machine on the moon and a satanic pair of strides in their own home, in their third outing Wallace and Gromit are faced with their toughest foe yet: Preston, the psychotic pit bull - no simple dog, but a cyborg whom muzzle cannot contain. This Schwarzeneg-

BBC 2



review Jim White

invention (a knitting machine) and abuses since frankly Wallace would have difficulty stopping a cheque.

As always, the joy of Park's work lies in the details - the bungee-rope windowcleaning device which, inevitably, goes wrong; the dog's newspaper, The Telegruff; Gromit's face. But with ever more money is charged with a Luddite vision: technology to realise his ambitions, Park's set-pieces will, inevitably, turn malevolent on you. are rapidly matching the incidentals. The Thunderbirds pastiche as the pair set off on as Westminster Abbey: "It's a nice little their motorbike to clean windows (Wallace, as always, adrift in it all, yelling "whoaaah" throne, "they might do away with the lions as he teetered on the brink of disaster) was it stands on and put it on rockers instead." simply the best thing on TV this Christmas. Alan Bennett, surely the role-model for

more appropriate at this time of year to explore the Lakeside shopping centre, Thurrock. But Bennett decided to spend most of the holiday in The Abbey (Christmas Day BBC2), wandering around Westminster, being wry. One thing with Alan Bennett as your guide, you know things it for his own evil purpose (to mush sheep into dog food). Only Gromit can stop him, seems to be another chapel there and some seems to be another chapel there and some sort of rampart beyond that," he began. He was drawn to Westminster, he said,

because it was "a royal peculiar", a phrase he repeated time and again, rolling it around his mouth as he might a barm cake and a nice cup of lapsang southong. Only he, a bit of a royal peculiar himself, could find quite so many cosy corners and twee little ceremonies in a building as imposing chair," he said, faced by the Coronation throne, "they might do away with the lions

Not that he was all nice; those acidic verbal constructions which are his trade-Wallace, had an intriguing way to celebrate mark knifed in with regularity. "Look at ger of a mutt steals Wallace's latest the English Yuletide: he went to a church, them," he said, of boys from Westminster

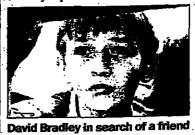
An odd choice, you might think; so much School looking grumpy in morning chapel in the Abbey, "armoured in their careful langour." No better description has been coined for a bunch of English public schoolboys. But you couldn't help noticing. as they raked the flop of hair out of their eyes, pinched their mouths and sighed, how much like Alan Bennett the boys looked.

England My England, the film which took up most of C4's Christmas evening schedule (and, judging by its lavishness, most of the channel's budget too) had a much less engaging vision of England's condition. Ostensibly a biography of Hemy Purcell (the soundtrack was fabulous), it was, in reality, the last cantankerous soapbox John Osborne climbed aboard. "The Common Market," hectored Simon Callow as his hero and mouthpiece, "is a drab name for such a monumental swindle, the biggest con since some German ad man thought of putting wholesale murder on the market as National Socialism." A pity he died this year - how fine the angry old man would have looked in a vociferous blazer, flanking John Redwood in the court of the Euro-sceptics.

film of the day

KES 9pm C4

Ken Loach's first film still stands as one of his best - a low-key adaptation of Barry Hines's novel about a boy who finds solace from his harsh environment, bullying schoolmates and family by training a kestrel. Touching, truthful performances are extracted from the youngsters, and 14-year-old David Bradley in particular.



BBC 1

7.00 Children's BBC: Tales of the Tooth Fairles (5077220). 7.05-The Greedysaurus Gang (5076591), 7.10-The Snow Queen (2305171), 7.35 Opus and Bill (7229171), 8.00 Fireman Sam (5844930), 8.20 Playdays (6994539), 8.40 White Christmas (3510775). 9.10 Peter Pan and the Pirates (5845978). 9.30 The Legend of Prince Valiant (1844442). 9.55 Eek the Cat (4978152). 10.20

Record Breakers (2448607).

10.45 EBSI Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines (Ken Annakin 1965 UK). Much-loved comedy jaunt set in 1910, in which the fikes of James Fox and Eric Sykes try to fly from London to Paris in the fastest time and collect £10,000 offered by a newspaper editor (42605084), *

12.50 News; Weather (12968084). * 12.55 Local News, Weather (12967355). 1.00 Neighbours. Karl spots Libby kissing Luke - shock, horror (S) (89992978). *

1.20 The Two Ronnies. Their Christmas special from 1987, featuring Elton John and Charlton Heston (R) (5802268). *

2.10 FRA Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (Steven Spielberg 1989 US). The comic relationship between Hamson Ford and Sean Connery, as his father, is the best thing about the otherwise mediocre; seen-itbefore second sequel. River Phoenix plays the young Indv (S) (323238). *

4.10 Disney Time. Michaela Strachan in Norway gives the traditional seasonal plug to Disney products (S) (5318797).

4.50 Final Score (1701688).

5.15 News; Weather (3175713), * 5.25 Local News, Weather (6246336), 5.30 Cartoon (938510). *

5.40 Neighbours (R) (S) (661201). * 6.05 IBM Beethoven (Brien Levant 1992 US). American family discovers a comedy St Bernard and adopts it.

With the perennially underrated Charles Grodin *(R75*2572). * 7.30 EastEnders (S) (249). * 8.00 Goodnight Sweetheart. Seasonal sice asset dwerring time-travel sitcom, starring Mcholas

Lyndhurst (908862). 8.50 The Thin Stue Line. Ben Ellon coo Sile Grim chasing some dangerous carol singers (S)

9.20 Fifth Patriot Garnes (Phillip Noyce 1992 US). Ho-hum, highly implausible yarn with CIA specialist Harrison Ford coming out of retirement to protect his family from Sean Bean's Irish accent and his violent,

terrorist ways (S) (73767978). *
11.10 News; Weather (118404). *
11.25 (Clockwise (Christopher Morahan 1986 UK). Excellent, well-observed comedy in which punctualityobsessed headmaster John Claese goes to pieces in a desperate bid to address a headmasters' conference

in Norwich (S) (187775). * 1.00 Lisa Stansfield in Concert. In 1994, at the Royal Albert Hall (22553). 2.00 Weather (8547195). To 2.05am.

7.00 Estat City Lights (Charlie Chaplin 1931 US). Charlie Chaplin classic in which he plays a tramp who tries to raise money for an operation to help a blind flower-girl

8.25 Mame (Gene Sals 1974 US). Thoroughly embarrassing musical with sixtysomething Lucille Ball squawking her way through the songs as a "free-spirited" aunt transforming everyone's lives. A camp classic (62482317). *

10.30 The Voyages of Charles Darwin. First in recycled sk-part series (R) (1.8571).

11.30 Celebrity Mantelpiece. Michael Hordem revealed through his knick-knacks (4223355). *

11.45 END The Adventures of Quentin Durward (Richard December 1986). Thorpe 1955 UK), Robert Taylor swashbuckles his way through 15th-century Burgundy. With Kay Kendall, Robert Morley and Wilfrid Hyde White

(81584713). 1.20 Anne Frank Remembered. Riveting, thoroughly moving documentary about the young Dutch wartime diany-keeper - deserved winner of a recent

International Emmy (R) (95353201). *
3.20 1992 My Fair Lady (George Cukor 1964 US). Overlong but otherwise fine version of the Lerner and Loewe musical, with Audrey Hepburn perhaps a tad refined as Eliza, and Rex Harrison a touch world-weary

as Professor Higgins (S) (44613751). *
6.05 The Ghurkas. Ian Woolnidge celebrates the Nepalese soldiers who fight for Britain (S) (126510). *
7.05 Pride and Prejudice: From Page to Screen (R)

7.35 Sylvie Guillern. New three-part series in which the French dancer invites dancers and choreographers to explore new ways of bringing dance to the screen. Tonight: Mats Ek (S) (137355). 8,00 The Abbey with Alan Bennett. 2/3. Bennett makes

his mordant way to the north transept (S) (910572). 8,55 Close Up. Robert McKee on Erich Von Stroheim's Greed (S) (965591). *

9.00 A to Z of ATV. R is for Repeat (R) (256355). 9.20 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV Special. From 1987 (R) (958442). *

10.00 ETH Screen Two. The Hour of the Pig. Based on true cases from rural medieval France, where animals were considered capable of committing crimes and tried as such. Colin Firth plays an idealistic Parisian murder and, yes girts, he takes his clothes off. See Pick of the Day (S) (879959). *

11.55 Files Faust (Jan Svankmajer 1994 Cz/UK/Fr). Specially commissioned by the BBC from the great Czech animator, this beautiful; haunting telling of the Faust legand uses a mix of puppetry and live action (S) (796607).

1.30 FIEM The Body Snatcher (Robert Wise 1945 US). Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi go grave-robbing in 1830s Edinburgh – or Hollywood's idea of 1830s Edinburgh – in an entertaining take on Robert Louis Stevenson's Burke and Hare-inspired story (8635447).*

2.40 Weatherview (5150973). To 2.45am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. News. 6.05 Features special, 7.00 News. 7.30 Barney. 8.00 Galaxy High. 8.30 Starla and the Jewel Riders. 8.55 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers

9.25 Mole's Christmas. Animation adapted from a chapter of The Wind in the Willows, and voiced by Peter Davison and Imelda Staunton (R) (S)

9.55 Talespin (S) (4963220). 10.20 The Forgotten Toys. Bob Hoskins and Joanna Lumley voice an animation about two toys in search of

children to love them (1286305). 10.50 The Snow Queen. Animated Hans Christian Andersen, voiced by Helen Mirren, Hugh Laurie, David Jason and Rik Mayall (S) (7224930). 12.20 News, Weather (8185317). * 12.30 Emmerdale (R) (76046). *

1.00 Take That at Earl's Court. Second part of the boys' concert from London earlier this year (1960862). 2.05 Fifth Return of the Pink Parither (Blake Edwards 1975 UK). Edwards and Sellers reunited to fruitful effect in a fairly amusing inspector Clouseau outing (42662775). *

4.10 Her Alibi (Bruce Beresford 1989 US). You might need an alibi if caught watching this state romantic comedy in which mystery writer Torn Selleck (implausibility number one) tries to prove the innocence of a mysterious foreign woman (59402030).

5.50 News, Weather (849133). * 6.00 Goldeneye: The Secret Files. Behind the scenes, yet again. Has it passed Network Centre's attention that ITV has already screened one major Bond documentary this month? (84065). *

7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale. With a special guest appearance by Gladiator Hunter. Ulrika's husband knows what that feels like (7171). * 8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People. Lanky

talent-spotter hangs around a shopping centre (S) (1046). 8.30 Cadfael. Derek Jacobl returns as the sleuthing 12thcentury monk - investigating the rape, murder and

encasement in Ice of a nun. Terence Hardman.costars and Hungary stands in for Shropshire (31336). 10.00 The Beatles Anthology. The Beatles meet the

Maharishi, and Brian Epstein dies (S) (6442). *
News. Weather (475201). * 11.10 Deed Poets Society (Peter Weir 1989 US). It's 1959, and unorthodox teacher Robin Williams arrives

at a stuffy New England school and inspires the pupils. A dazzing performance by Williams is slowly sidelined by the plot (S) (60655404). 1.35 ERB Michight Crossing (Roger Hobberg 1988 US).
Convoluted yearn in which Daniel J Travanti takes blind

and unsuspecting wife Faye Dunaway on holiday to a Caribbean Island in order to retrieve some stolen money (S) (622973). 3.20 MIM Tricks of the Trade (Jack Bender 1988 US).

When her husband is murdered, a wife goes looking for his mistress (535669). 5.00 it's Xmas, it's Number One. To 5.55am.

Channel 4

6.40 Utysses 31 (R) (1679510). **7.05** The Adventures of T-Rex (2373572).

7.30 Little Dracula (R) (33978). 8.00 The Big Breakfast. With footballer Jamie Redinapp, D:Ream, the Sugdens from Emmerdale and Nicola Quilter from Home and Away (15084).

10.00 The Morning Line. Today's horse-racing previewed

(S) (1181751). 10.25 Babyion 5 (R) (S) (3038249). * 11.20 California Dreams (R) (4876571). 11.45 Biker Mice from Mars (2101220). **12.10 Super Mario Brothers** (3833794). **12.20 Dennis** (8183959).

12.30 Channel 4 Racing from Kempton. The King George Vi Tripleprint Chase is the day's big race at 2.20pm and there's coverage of the 12.45, 1.15, 1.45 and 2.50 races (S) (32697317).

3.15 Dido and Aeneas. Purcell's opera is staged with a novel mixture of music and dance (choreographed by Mark Morris). Singers include Jennifer Lane and Russell Braun, accompanied by the barroque orchestra, Tafelmusik (794797).

4.15 The World of Jim Henson. Collaborator Frank Oz, broadcaster Ted Koppel and Francis Ford Coppola are among those paying tribute to the puppeteering Innovator behind Sesame Street and the Muppets (S) (28357341). *

5.55 News Summary, Weather (855794). *
6.00 Absolutely Christmas Animals. Dani Behr discovers what Christmas is like for dogs, by visiting the country's argest dog shelter, in Liverpool (582152).

6.45 Real No Worries (David Effick 1993 Aus). Charming drama about a young girl from the Australian outback who is relocated to Sydney when her parents' sheep farm goes bust, and finds her bearing with the help of another outsider - a young Vietnamese refugee (73323539).

8.30 Brookside. Rosie's bad deeds catch up with her as the Christmas presents are returned (S) (1423). * 9.00 FILM Kes (Ken Loach 1969 UK). Loach's first film is a deeply touching depiction of a boy (the extraordinarily naturalistic David Bradley) finding solace from a grim northern council estate and his dysfunctional family by taking a kestrel as a pet. See Film of the Day

(45589713). Just for Laughs. Stand-up comedy from Montreal hosted by Frank Skinner (889355). *

11.35 Whose Line is it Anyway? Clive Anderson hosts compiled highlights of the improvised comedy show (487171). 12.05 American Football (7813805).

1.20 Street with No Name (Williams Keighly 1948 US). FBI agent Mark Stevens infiltrates a vicious criminal gang headed by Richard Widmark in this engrossing thriller. (680440). 3.00 Rawhide (64350).

4.00 The World of Hammer. Narrated by Oliver Reed. This week, science fiction (R) (90963114). To 4.25am.

TV GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT

ITV/Regions

Allici IA
6.00am GMTV (8147404). 9.25 Mole's Christmas (8225404). 9.55 Talespin (4963220). 10.20 The Forgotten Toys (1286305). 10.50 Film: The Snow Queen (7224930). 12.20pm News (8185317). 12.30 Emmerdale (76046). 1.00 Take That at Earl's Court (1960852). 2.05 Film: Return of the Pink Parither (42662775). 4.10 Film: Return of the Pink Parither (42662775). 4.10 Film: Her Alibi (59402030). 5.50 News (849133). 6.00 Goldeneye. The Secret Files (84065). 7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale (7171). 8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People (1046). 8.30 Caddal (31336). 10.00 The Beatles Anthrology (6442). 11.00 News (475201). 11.10 Film: Dead Poets Society (60655404). 1.35am Film: The Sign of Four (622973). 3.20am The Chart Show (7197114). 4.15am On the Live Side (78176). 4.45-5.55am Film: Clancy Street Boys (3189089).

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TYME TEES/YORKSHIRE

As London

As London except: 12.30-1.00pm The Munsters To-

As C4 except: 12.00mon Stot Meithrin (58152). 12.30 Channel 4 Racing (32697317). 3.15 Filtrs: Miracle on 34th Street (99067997). 5.00 Sinderela (2539). 6.00 Newyddion (584794). 6.10 5 Pump: Pinpin Y

Radio

Radio 1

97.6-99.888b FAD 8.00am Simon Mayo with PJ and Duncan 12.00 Nicky Campbell Meets Keith Richards 3.00 Dave Pearce 7.00 Evening Session Rewind 9.00 Star Review: Bruce Dickinson 10.00 Bon Jovi Live at Wembley 12.00 Mark Tondera 4.00-8.00am Claire Sturgess

图细纸等题

Radie 2

6.00am Roger Royle 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Ginger Rogers 1.00 That's Life 3.00. Ed Stewart 5.00 The Christmas. Truce 6.00 Dame Judi Dench Pre-sents Music on the Brain 7.00 The Huddines Bumper Christmas Armulai 7.30 Superhero Hali of Fame
8.30 Sinatra: the Other Side 9.00
Across the Board. See Choice.
9.00 The Christmas Robbin 10.30 The Martin Keiner Music show 12.05 Sue McGarry 3.00-6.00am Alex Lester

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600am On Air. Tchaikovsky: String Quartet No 1. Mozart: Symphony No 39 in E flat. Hoist: Wind Fin A. Shause: Second Waltz Se-Quence (Der Rosenka raber). Han lel: Ombra cara (Radamisto Hahn: Le Bai de Beatrice d'Este. O Morning Collection with Paul Sambacom, Tchaitovsky, Suite: van Lake. Antonio Sacchini: ardanus (excerpis). Wagner:

Stefried Idyll.

10.00 Musical Encounters. With
Purs Burton-Page. Holst: Of one
that is so fair and bright (carol). Artest of the Week, Kiri te Katawa (soprano). Canteloube: Sorps of the Auvergne (selec-tion). Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No 3 in G. Beethoven: Fiano Soreta in B flat, Op 109, Holst:

Scherzo, Trad, arr Holst: Personet hode (card).

12.00 Composer of the Week: Saint-Saêns, Planistes Extraordinaires. Romance in D flat. Op 37; Plano Trio No 1 in F. Op 18; Variations on a Theme of Beethoven, Op 35. 1.00 News, The BBC Orchestras, BBC Philismonu/fen Pascal Torteller, Gernot Ohleson (pasco), Waber, Overtuge, Der Freischutz, Brahms. Overtime: Day Fractificat Statutes
Peans Speciate No. 2 in B St.
2.05 Oxfording Organs. (3/5).
2.50 Amsterdam Matter Festival.
Introduced by Humphrey Buston.
Phomas Hampson sings the secoud of four accounts spatiating the
Status and Oxfording and Oxfording Status.



Schonheit, Blicks mir nicht in die Lieder, Um Mitternacht, Ich bin der Weit abhanden gekommen, Symphony No 3 in G. 9.10 The Fortunate Cat. (2/5). 9.20 Penguin Caté Orchestra. A concert recorded at St George's,

Bruce Wood introduces some newly discovered theatre pieces by Louis Grabu Radio 4

Radio 4
524.94 Get Rt. 1989/2 Dit
5.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.25 Prayer for the Day.
6.30 Over the Counter. (1/2).
6.55 Weather.
7.00 Today.
8.40 A Christmas Carol. (2/5).
8.58 Weather.
9.00 (FM) News.
9.00 (LW) Test Match Special. Coverage of the first day's play in the

9.00 (LW) Test Match Special. Coverage of the first day's play in the Fourth Test in Port Elizabeth.
9.05 (FM) Tumpty-Tumpty-Tumpty-Tumpty-Tum. Jeremy Nicholas exemines the evolution of the signature have as composers and programme-maters discuss the rather serious business of how to engage the senses with a simple

Walters discovers that Christmas comes early for some, as coach. impers from across the country descend upon the sessible town of Eastbourne. (2/5).

choice



Deconstruct a small child's selling toy on the planet. Then Monopoly, the best-selling board-game on the planet.

5.00 The Music Machine.
5.15 Fakest Isle Songbook.
5.30 The Light Brigade. (1/2).
6.30 Eten Choirbook.
7.30 Amstandam Mahler Festival.
Five Ruckert Lieder: Ich atmet
einen Linden Duff; Liebst du imm
Schonbeit. Ricke mit nicht in die

Brancion Hill, Bristol. 18.45 The Shellac Show. 11.30-12.30am Music Restored.

niace of music. piece of music.

9.35 (FM) Shell Lives Christmas
Special. See Choice.

10.00 (FM) News; La Mia Italia.

10.00 (LM) Daily Service.

10.15 (ILM) Children's BBC Radio
4: A Ghost for Christmas. (1/5).

10.30 Walters' Festive Froliss. John

Christmas pleasure with a special edition of Shelf Lives (9.35am R4) denoted to Barble (left), the bestdeconstruct the rest of the family's Boxing Day amusement in Across the Board (9pm R2), a history of

11.00 (LW) Test Match Special. 11.00 (FM) News; Trying to Con-nect You, (1/2). 11.30 (FM) At Bertram's Hotel. By Agatha Christie. (2/5). 12.00 (FM) News, Trumpton Riots. Today is Saturday. Caron Keating recalls the anarchic thrill of TISWAS, (2/5).

12.25 (FM) The Heritage Quiz. 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One. (FM only from 1.30)
1.30 (LW) Test Match Special.
1.40 (FM) The Archers.
1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 (FM) News; Box of Delights.
By John Masefield. (1/2). 2.00 (LW) Test Metch Special 3.30 (FM) Kaleidoscope: Mille

Tales. Celebrated American play-wright Arthur Miller talks to Christopher Bigsby about the early years of his life. (1/4). 4.05 Radio Lives: Frankle Howerd OBE - The Borderline Case. (2/5). 4.45 Christmas Short Story: A Goose for Christmas. 5.00 PM. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.15 It's Your Go! (1/4). 6.30 Cook's Tour. (1/3). 7.00 News. 7.20 A Friend of a Friend... Investigating the phenomenon of the urban myth. Were you around when Bob Dylan got lost in North London? And are there really alligators in the sewers of New York?

8.00 The Unheard Prophet. 8.30 Devout Sceptics Christmas Special. 9.00 The in Touch 9.30 Kalendoscope Feature. The Moor's Last Sigh, Salman Rushdie's first novel since The Satanic Verses, sweeps from 15th-century Spain to contempo-rary India in an epical story of

Lee talks to the author about the novel and its themes. 9.59 Weather.

10.00 The World Tonight. With Janet Cohen. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Memo from David O Selznick. Henry Goodman reads extracts from the personal memos and letters of the Hollywood responsible for Gane with the Wind. (2/5). 11.00 Take Me to the River. 11.30 Derek Cooper's Neces Pleasures. Derek Cooper visits Northern Ireland to see how eals

are caught and the East End of taste. (2/5). 12.30 The Late Book: Miss Smilla? Feeling for Snow. (7/15). 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service.

Radio 5 (233. 9494th 1887) 7.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.05 Island Line 10.05 Brief Lives 11.05 I'll Eat My Hat 11.30 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-O-Six 7.35 The Tuesday Match 10.05 Voices of the Old Firm 11.05 Ages of Being 11.35 Spaced Out 12.05 Bosnia at Christmas 2.05 Up All Night 5.05

The Holly and the Archivy 5.35-7.00am The 5 Live Christmas Quiz Classic FM (100.0-181.99Mb PM) 6.00am Mark Griffiths 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Best of Celebrity Choice 2.00 Classic Christmas Ballet. Stravinsky: Petrushka (1947 var sion). Rossini, arr Respighi: La Bou-tique Fantasque, 4.00 Robert Booth 6.00 The Lucame Legend 8.00 Classic FM Evening Concert. A per-Classic PM Evening Concert. A per-sonal selection of words and music from John Julius Norwich. 10.00 Sk of the Best with Quentin Howard 1.00 Safty Peterson 4.00-6.00am Mark Griffiths.

Virgin Radio (1235, 1197-1260Mz JMY 105.8Mbz PM) 6.00am Robin Banks 10.00 Gra-hem Dene 2.00 Nicky Horne 6.00 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forest 2.08-6.00am Howard Pearce World Service

(1986) (19) 1.00 World News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 On Screen 1.30 Parts of Call 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Andy Kershew's World of Music 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30
Discovery 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Off the Sheli: Peter Pan 4.45 Country Style 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Omnibus

Satellite

7.00am The DJ Kat Show (79978). 8.00 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (82133). 8.30 Press Your Luck (81404). 9.00 Court TV (75864). (81404). 9.00 Court TV (75854). 9.30 The Oprath Winfrey Show (74404). 10.30 Concentration (75828). 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (60046). 12.00 Jeopardy (85220). 12.30 Murphy Brown (34084). 1.00 The Waltons (39539). 2.00 Geraldo (37220). 3.00 Court TV (1065). 3.30 The Oprah Warfrey Show (8142249). 4.20 Undun (3298794). 4.45 Kipper Tripper (5374713). 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (2317). 6.00 The Simpsons (3571), 6.30 Jeopardy (4881), 7.00 LAPD (3046), 7.30 M*A*S*H (3715), 8.00 The Bible: Jacob (47572). 10.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (66607). 11.00 Law and Order (81539). 12.00 Late Show with David Letterman (8744447). 12.45 The Untouch-

ables (6199398). 1.30 The Edge (38640). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long

Play (7694089). SKY MOHES 8a. Novecase (95539). 8.00 Beethoven's 2nd (1993). Cornedy starring Charles Grodin and Bonnle Hunt, Lovable St Bernard Beethove talls for Missy, an attractive bitch who belongs to the heartless Regi-na. Pretty soon they have brought four cute pupples into the world, but evil Regina is hatching a plot to steal them (28572). 10.00 One Million Years BC (1966). Prehistoric adventure yarn with Raquel Welch and John Richardson (39012). 12.00 Robin Hood: Men in Tights 12.00 Robin Hood: Men in Tignts (1993). Comedy starring Cary Elwes and Richard Lewis. Mel Brooks sends up the Robin Hood legend in this lively comic spoof (41423). 2.00 3 Ninjas (1992). Mertial arts adventure for children, Stars Victor Wong, Michael Treanor and Mex Eliott Stade (57959). 4.00 Free Mith. (1021) Delighetid abilitization. Willy (1993). Delightful children's adventure about a boy who tries to tree a whale from a marine park (7249), 6.00 Beethover's 2nd (1993). Comedy starring Charles Grodin and Bonnie Hunt, Lovable St Bernard Beethoven falls for Missy, an attractive bitch who belongs to the heartless Regina. Pretty soon they have brought four cuts pupplet into the world, but evil Regina is hatching a plot to steal them (60423). 8.00 Robin Hood: Men in Tights (1993). Cornetly starring Cary Elwes and Richard Lewis. Mel Brooks sends up the Robin Hood legand in this lively comic spoof (72268). 10.00 The Favor (1994). Cornedy starring Harley Jane Kozak and Elizabeth McGovern, Married sum of money from a pharmaceutical

choice



Prior to Rain Man (10pm Sky Movies Gold), Tom Cruise was seen as a bit of a Brat Pack himbo. That all changed, though, with Barry Levinson's thoughtful study of the relationship between an autistic man (Dustin Hoffman) and his seemingly careless brother (Cruise). Cruise is by no means outshone by

mother Kathy Whiting still dreams about her high school sweetheart. So when her friend announces that she is going to Deriver, the two women strike a deal: Emily will be allowed to woo him, so long as she relates the details to Kathy (762220). 11.40 SIS Extreme Justice (1993). Drama starring Lou Diamond Phillips and Scott Glerin. A top serhangs and south death in A by serializes in tracking down and eliminating LR's most dangerous criminals (352/52). 1.20 Invisible: The (332132). 1120 invalue: The Chronicles of Benjamin Knight (1993). Sci-fi thriller (4673485). 2,40 Posse (1993). Western directed by and starring Mario Van Peebles (197263). 4.30-6.00am 3 Ninjas (1992). Martial arts adven-ture for children. Stars Victor Wong, Michael Treanor and Max Eliott

Stade (55114). 6.00am Courage of Lassie (1946). A young Elizabeth Taylor stars (86881). 8.00 Yabba-Dabba Doo Celebration. feature-length carbon (59442). 10.00 Where the Red Fern Grows -Part 2 (1991), Rural drama (36442). 12.00 Wind (1992). Yackting drama (49065). 2.00 My Favourite Wife (1940). Cornedy starrayound with 13-10, comery star-ring Cary Grant and Iene Dunne (48201). 4.00 Spiderman: The Cap-tive Tower (1978) (43268). 5.00 The Remains of the Day (1993). Acctained Merchant Ivory period drama starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson (761317). 7.30 Special Feature: Seven (3775). 8.00 Demolition Man (1993), Action thriller starring Sylvester Stallone, Wesley Snipss and Sandra Bullock Cryogenically frozen cop John Spar tan is defrosted in the year 2032 only to discover that his nemesis, psychopathic criminal Simon Phoenix, is still at large (63510). 10.00 The Last Seduction (1994). Thriller starring Linda Fiorentino and Peter Berg. A woman steals a large

the card company and joins the mail room to get to meet her. But how long can he stay on the straight and narrow? (284591). 1.20 victim of Rage (1994) (832398). 2.55 incident in a Small Town (1993), Murder mystery starring Walter Matthau (561824). 4.30-6.00am Dunderklumper (1973). Mixture of live-action and animation (53756). SILT MONTES GOLD

(1933). Showbiz musical starring Warner Baxter and Ruby Keeler. A tempts to produce the show of his Man (1988), Drama starring Dustin Hoftman and Tom Crulse, Cruise What he is, after an eventful cross-(1970). Black cornedy in which Dr Jones (758263).

and the second first consistency of the confidence of the second control of the confidence of the second control of the second contr

WESTCOUNTRY
6.00cm GMTV (8147404), 9.25 Mole's Christmas
(8225404), 9.55 Talespin (4963220), 10.20 The Forgotten Toys (1286305), 10.50 Film: The Snow Queen
(7224930), 12.20pm News & Weather (8185317), 12.30
Emmerdale (76046), 1.00 Tale: That at Earl's Court
(1960862), 2.05 Film: Return of the Prik Parther
(42662775), 4.10 Film: Her Albi (59402030), 5.50
News (849133), 6.00 Goldersye: The Search Files (84065),
7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale (7171), 8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People (1046), 8.30 Cadisel (31336),
10.00 The Bestles Anthology (6442), 11.00 News
(475201), 11.10 Film: Dead Poets Society (60655-404),
1.35ant Film: The Sign of Four (622973), 3.20am The WESTCOUNTRY

Goeden Nadolig (138539). 6.40 5 Pump. Ffeil (823355). 7.00 Cein Gwlad (876423). 7.45 Pavarotti Yn Llangollen (990684), 8.45 Newyddion (779775), 9.00 Y Mapiwr (94489881), 10.50 Brookside (222065), 11.20 Absolutely Xmas Animals (339930). 12.05-1.20am American Football (7813805).

UK GOLD



Hoffman at his most showy. drug deal, then goes on the run. She stops for a while in a small town and seduces an insurance salesman, confident that he is her escape ticket (781220). 11.50 Mo' Money (1992). Comedy starring Damon and Marions Wayans. A young comman meets a beautiful employee at a cred-

> 4.00pm Buona Sera, Mrs Campbell (1968), Cornedy starring Gina Lotlob-rigida, Peter Lawford and Shelly Win-ters (2591). 6.00 42nd Street dedicated producer comes up against career (40607). 8.00 Cocoon (1985). Charming film about a group of senior citizens who stumble on the secret of eternal youth thanks to a se cluded swimming pool and some unwittingly helpful allens. Starring Jessica Tandy, Steve Guttenberg and Dom Ameche (45.152). 10.00 Rain plays a selfish brother who learns to love his autistic brother (Hoffman) for country drive to claim his inheritance. See Chorce. (92544713), 12.20 Less Than Zero (1987) (508553). 2.00-3.40am Horror of Frankenstein Frankenstein is a thoroughly bad sort: he cheats on his friends, murders his father and two-times his lovers while creating his monster, Stars Raiph Bates, Kate O' Mara and Graham

and Daughters (9771978). 8.30 EastEnders (9770249). 9.00 The Bill (9754201). 9.30 The Sullivans (1603510). 10.00 A Dorothy L Sayers Mystery (1296317). 11.00 Dallas (1209381). 12.00 Sons and Daughters (9774065). 12.30 Neighbours (1614626). 1.00 East-Enders (1210997). 1.30 The Bill (1613997). 2.00 The Sullivans (59570039). 2.25 Are You Being Served? (3794881). 3.00 Angels (7607539). 3.30 Eldorado (8206201), 4.00 The Paul Daniels Magic Show (95531930). 5.05 Larry Grayson's Generation Game (41858220), 6.15 Kenny's Comic Curis (6097336), 6.25 EastEnders (2640084). 7.00 Eldorado (7682220). 7.30 The Liver Birds (8222249), 8.00 George and Mildred (2963959), 8.25 Butterflies (1414713), 9.00 The Sweeney (5049084). 10.00 The Bill (6897997). 10.35 Classic Sport (1611336). 11.35 Carrott Confider tial (2175220). 12.15 Dr Who (8707737). 12.45 Film:Cattle Queen of Montana (2073282). 2.15-7.00am Shopping at Night

7.00am Angels (1211626), 7.30 Neighbours (1290133), 8.00 Sons

(3163621). SICY SPORTS

7.00am Snowboard Tour (20065). 7.30 Racing News (99572). 8.00 Test Match Cricket, Ball-by-ball cover age of the first day's play in the Fourth Test between England and South Africa in Port Efizabeth. (4427152). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre Football Special (87626). 5.00 Rugby League. Wigan vs St Helens at Central Park (27539). 6.30 Vortid Soccer Magazine (81881). 7.30 Live Footballs Blackburn vs Manchester City Dev Hardent Football: Blackburn vs Manchester City. Ray Harford's disappointing and off-beleaguered Blackburn side take on the resurgent, though still troubled. City in what promises to be a grity blood-and-thunder foture at Ewood Park (24293881). 10.15 Sky Sports Centre (534572). 10.45 Test March Chicket. Highlights of England vs. South Africa (17127084). 12.30 South Africa (17127084), 12,30 Football Special (78332), 2.30-3.00am Sky Sports Centre (\$6783).

EUROSPORT 7.30am Triathion (77978). 8.30 Rug-by (96171). 10.00 Football (63171). 12.00 Football (33930). 1.00 Speci-

world (70084). 2.30 foe Hockey (672959). 5.00 Speedworld (4794). 5.30 Football (95572). 6.30 Eurosport News (2065), 7.00 Motors (25997). 9.00 Football (17355). 11.00 Snooker (14881), 12.00-12.30am Eurosport News (E7755).



QUOTES OF THE YEAR QUIZ OF THE YEAR

Liverpool prepare to fulfil their potential

Football GUY HODGSON

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Port Elizabeth

England players who tour regularly are long used to com-

bining their family Christmases

with the more serious matter of

winning Test matches. Yet this

has not always proved compat-

ible, as the previous two vuletide Tests in Melbourne have

This year in a break from the

traditions of celebrating Christ-

mas in fancy dress, England

have instead spent most of the

festive season here singing

only 10 days of cricket left to win

this series, which is still level

pegging after three drawn

matches. Any slip-ups in the

fourth Test here could let the

opposition in and both sides

know that with so little slack to

play with, few can be afforded.

particular Raymond Illing-worth's version of "The Twist"

- on Christmas Eve eased ten-

sions and provided the appro-

priate hilarity, much of

yesterday was spent practising.

watching videotape of the left-

arm wrist-spinner Paul Adams

and worrying about the height

of the sightscreens.

But if the karaoke party - in

of Christmas past.

songs and watching videos in an them.

One of the more astonishing calls to Radio Five Live's Six-O-Six recently suggested that Roy Evans ought to be dismissed as Liverpool manager. He is out of his depth was the crux of the argument, which somehow forgot the small matter of the Coca-Cola Cup last

It was a facile suggestion then and made even more so now that Liverpool have rediscovered the verve that deserted them in November. Those who witnessed their recent destruction of Manchester United could testify that this is a team with delicious potential. and that Evans is about as un-

Roy Evans has rebuilt Liverpool into a youthful, strong-looking team," Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager, said in the af-termath of their 3-1 defeat at Anfield on Saturday. "When you play an excellent side like them you get a measure of your own ability. We've got a lot of work to do if we want to challenge."

The inference was that Liv-erpool can win the Premiership, a challenge that will assume more weight if they defeat sixthplaced Aston Villa today.

Their greatest source of optimism comes from the strike partnership that once had the synchronicity of Morecambe and Costello, but has since gelled to an extent - Nottingham Forest supporters please note -

Since his nine wickets against

England in Kimberley, the 18-

year-old Adams has shown he is

no flash in the pan wunderkind. Today, barring last-minute injury, he will become South

Africa's youngest Test player.

Apart from the raw inexpe

rience of having only played five first-class games - although Ramadhin and Valentine had only played three between them

when they were first picked for the West Indies - it is a moment

he is clearly relishing. "I am just looking forward to bowling my

first ball," he said. He does not

follow in the modern sledging

idiom, either - "I just laugh at

onate around his country as an

achieved by those so long at the

margins of this sports-crazed

land. But it is a debut that car-

ries great pressure too, poised

as it is to be made at the criti-

cal stage of the series, on a no-

toriously slow, flat and

well-grassed pitch which looks

perfect for batting in the early

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Adams

asked to

turn the

outcome

England realise there are an example of just what can be

der water as Neil Ruddock in that Stan Collymore provided the three-foot end. that Stan Collymore provided the passes for all three of Robhie Fowler's goals on Saturday.

"People say that Robbie and Stan can't play together," Evans said. "I think against Arsenal they proved it is not a problem." He is realistic enough, however, not to underestimate Newcastle's 11-point advantage over his side. We cannot afford any more slip-ups.

Kevin Keegan, a former An-field player, said: "I believe Liverpool will still feature in the title race. I watched them beat Manchester United and some of their football was the best I've seen this season.

Villa's manager, Brian Little, has a "broken heart" to mend, not to mention a little restoration of morale after a 1-0 defeat at Queen's Park Rangers

core is 18-year-old Lee Hendrie. who spoilt his debut by being sent off for a second bookable offence eight minutes into in-jury time. His chance to redeem nself will depend on Ian Taylor's ability to recover from ankle and shin injuries.

Top scorer Dwight Yorke is set to return after suffering a broken nose, while Mark Drap-er, replaced by Hendrie after 34 minutes at QPR, should recover from a bruised thigh.

The task for QPR today is a trip to Arsenal, who are search-ing for their first win in six League matches. Tony Adams is certain to return for the Gunners after suspension. "We need to make one or two changes in personnel," Rioch said. Brace vourselves for more

stories linking the club to Paul Ince and Alan Stubbs.

Adams will be up against Mark Hateley, who completed the match against Villa bloodstained and with a broken nose. Not that the old warhorse was diminished, saying: "There's no way we'll go down."

Tottenham, who squandered a two-goal lead in their disappointing home draw against Bolton Wanderers, will have full-back Dean Austin available after a three-match ban for their trip to Southampton.

Matthew Le Tissier (calf). plus flu victims Francis Benali and Barry Venison all missed the Saints' 2-2 draw at Sheffield Wednesday and manager Dave Merrington will wait for fitness reports before finalising his team. Middlesbrough, lying fifth,

Nicky Barmby for their visit to Everton. The former Spurs forward missed Saturday's 4-2 win over West Ham with an Achilles tendon injury. Paul Rideout is expected to spearhead the Everton attack after scoring on his return as a substitute in the 2-

1 defeat at Coventry. Duncan

Ferguson is still ruled out by flu. West Ham suffered no injuries at the Riverside Stadium but must tighten their defence against Coventry at Upton Park. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, admitted: "Without Alvin Martin we have problems. It is like the blind leading the blind. I need to strengthen my

defence as quickly as possible. Wimbledon, without a win in 14 Premiership games, will be Chelsea, who are awaiting a fit-ness test on Dennis Wise. The Dons goalkeeper, Paul Heald, suffered a knee injury in the Idraw against Blackburn and Hans Segers could start a game for the first time since 7 March. Sheffield Wednesday's Yu-

goslav imports Darko Kovacevic and Dejan Stefanovic could make their full debuts at Nottingham Forest, who may restore Scot Gemmill after leaving him out of the 3-1 defeat at Newcastle. That would allow Steve Stone to return to his favoured position on the right of midfield.

Garry Flitcroft will be back from suspension for Manchester City's trip to Blackburn, while the decision over which misfiring striker to drop could be made easier by Uwe Rösler's flu.

in tomorrow's 24-page sports section

Reports and analysis form the Boxing Day sporting mo-

Ball watching



Guy Hodgson looks ahead to

the Premiership match of tice season so far, Newcastie's visit to Manchester United Plus: our top 20 Premiership footballers of the year

First of the fourth



Derek Pringle reports from Port Elizabeth on the first day's play in the fourth Test betwen Mike Atherton's England and South Africa

Royal procession

Ken Jones and Richard Edmondson report from the King George VI Chase at Kempton

Derby day

Dave Hadfield reports from Central Park on the rugby league derby match between Wigan and St Helens

Union men

Coverage of the Boxing Day programme in rugby union

Tales of the unexpected

Strange but true: some of the most unlikely stories of 1995, including the world record that never was, the bowler who was shown the red card, and the occasion when 30 wickets fell in a single day's play at a county championship cricket match.

OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Warford



Hat-tricks: Mike Watkinson (left) and Robin Smith try to mix fun and games on Christmas Day

captain, Hansie Cronie, had a long net batting against him to work out the best field settings. Richardson, playing his 27th the wiles of Wardle. But if England are now more

Test has never taken a stumping and he said he desperately wants one for Christmas. He has not had long to prepare, unlike Brian Taylor, who toured South Africa with England in 1956. In those days the team trav-

England however believe elled by boat and Taylor, who that playing Adams will be eashad never kept to England's leftier to play second time around. most of them having played against him at Kimberlev. But (then bowling chinamen) had the youngster's inclusion has brought a gross of tennis balls brought problems closer to with him in order to get some home. Dave Richardson has never kept to him before and his it that a further gross were

picked up in Gibraltar, the first of having disappeared over has been painted to the lower board as Taylor failed to read

their complaint that the sightscreens are too low verges on the nit-picking and suggests a side not entirely at peace with itself. South African sources report that no one has complained before about the Press box window above the sightscreen, and anyway they are coated with a special film to pre-

edge of the windows. Interestngly, nothing as been said about the Castle Lager adverts in confident of reading Adams, bright cricket-ball red situated at ground level right behind the

bowler's arm. England who, providing there are no last-minute misgivings over the pitch this morning, will play the same side as as in the last Test, with the exception of Jason Gallian at No 3 for the injured John Crawley. Gallian has been pulled in to help give the innings the solid Yet Atherton and Illingworth starts it has so far lacked and will have been adamant and a token try to end the first-wicket-down an inch a day.

hoodoo once and for all. Judging by the pitch, the bowlers will have much work to

do should South Africa decide to bat with due care and attention. Once again England have plumped for swing, but as the former South African captain Kepler Wessels has already warned, it only swings at St. George's Park when the wind is from the east, a direction it was not blowing from yesterday. Unless it lightens and swings around, Richard Illingworth could find himself with an aching pair of spinning fingers and a hairline that has receded

England (from): M A Atherton (capt), A J Stewart. J E R Gelhan, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R A Smith, R C Russell (wkt), D G Cork, P J Marton, R K (llungworth, M C llott. M Washington M Watkinson.

South Africa (from): A C Hudson, G Kirsten, W J Crorrje (capt), D J Cullman, J N Rhodels, J H Kallis, B M Michellan, D J Richardson, S M Polioch, C R Matthews, A A Donald, P R Adams, N Boge.

Lamplres: C J Mitchiley (SA), S A Bucknor (WI). TV Replays: R E Koertzen (SA).

Mattch referee: C H Lloyd (WI).

BREAKS at exceptional prices from just en-week absence. A former Castleford player, St John Ellis, is in line to make his debut

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Business as usual for Wigan as an era ends

ever, make Wigan's pale into in-significance. Their coach, Eric

Hughes, aiready knows that he

will be without key players of the calibre of Paul Newlove, An-

thony Sullivan, Chris Joynt and

the suspended Bobbie Gould-

ing. He has a number of other

players struggling for fitness as

well and it could be a very

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Whatever ideas clubs might come up with to try to tag their Christmas paydays on to a summer season, today's Boxing Day fixtures are the last in the league and, in all probability, the last that can ever be said to mean anything.
There will be the bitter-sweet

flavour of an era ending, therefore, at grounds like Headingley and Central Park, when a tradition almost as old as the game itself comes to a full stop. For Wigan, though, it is very

nuch business as usual. Even if they were to lose to St Helens today - and anything is possible on Boxing Day, as the last 100 years have demonstrated - they would still need only five points from their last four matches to win the Stones Centenary Championship, and that is as-

Edwards back after missing last Sunday's pre-festive hiccup at Oldham, but Kelvin Skerrett is likely to be missing. Gary Connolly has a suspect groin and Craig Murdock could be out for the rest of this transitional season with a hamstring injury.

The Wigan coach, Graeme West, believes that the aston-

ishing defeat at Watershed-

dings has acted as a wake-up call

to a side who were not playing

well, reminding them that the

title is not safe yet - not quite.

Saints' injury problems, how-

Golden face fitness tests.

tional morning kick-off against Castleford, he hopes to have the much-missed Garry Schofield and Tony Kemp back after injury. although both they and Marvin Castleford had hoped to have Frano Botica fit to make his first appearance in their colours, but

for his new club, Halifax, against the Bradford Bulls, who allowed him to move the short distance between the two towns this weekend. Ellis, aged 31, joined Bradford at the start of this campaign after returning from a season with the South Queensland Crushers,

ited now that the Bulls have acquired another goal-kicking winger, Paul Cook, from Leeds. Ellis has initially joined Halifax for the remainder of the Centenary season, with a view to a longer-term deal.

In the other top division

but his opportunities look lim-

game today, Warrington could have three first-teamers available again after injury, in the shape of Gary Chambers, Kel-ly Shelford and Mark Forster, for their visit to Oldham. The home side could have the

rare luxury of fielding the same side that stunned Wigan nine days ago, with only their loose forward, Howard Hill - one of the notable successes among their younger players this sea-son - the only doubtful starter. In the First Division, Salford would tighten their grip on the top spot considerably if they

could win at Widnes. Although there have been repeated assurances that Paris will have their side ready for the start of Super League in March, the absence of any announcements on a coach or any players will keep hope alive for the winner of the division that they could be

- ACROSS Light-hearted teasing before entering Britain (6) One's wise to restrict
- 10 Occupied by Avon profes- 27 sor of transport? (4.5) 11 Province worth some

speed in modern times

- mention at a lecture (5) 12 Disgusting mollusc cats aluminium (7)
- 13 Could they be merry distress calls? (7) 14 King at a place no longer working (5) 15 Certainly holds communications firm to be obligat-
- 18 Roves about to do some gardening perhaps wearing this? (8)

2

- 20 One taken in by leading actor finds a way up? (5)
- 23 It's played as one gets 200 25 Amateur takes in study. not saying much (7)
- rent boredom (5) Beans have grown, getting second and third prize?
- 28 Hot, certainly, with high temperature in ailment 29 Oblique as Latin in trans-lation? I quit (6)
 - DOWN Graduates carrying husk
- out for Russian granny (8) Bid for fillet steak implied? (2-5) Oddly scale a hill, but not with this? (9)
- Scam of Egyptian spiv?
- from Kent University? (8.6)16 They're profoundly mean-
- 17 Two drugs and what he is who takes them? (8)
- Sweet suggestion of Cyprus' IVR? (5)
- street (6) An appropriate offering
- plaint (7) Articulated cheeps could be nearest a bird gets to

24 It could produce oil, extra

virgin initially? (5)

: 🙃

- Trigger acute changes keeping in position (7) Join line forming on
- ingful in written music (4.5)
- 19 Is able, in holiday year, to find an opening (7) 21 One seaman's stupid com-

suming that Saints or Leeds win all their remaining games. Wigan hope to have Shaun patched-up St Helens side that takes the field at Central Park. Dean Bell's dissatisfaction with his Leeds squad has been shown over the last week by his approaches for the Batley scrum-half, Glen Tomlinson, and the Salford three-quarter.

Nathan McEvoy.
An £80,000 cash bid has failed to secure Tomlinson. however, and Salford were immune to the charms of an offer which would have seen highly experienced internationals like Alan Tait, Richie Eyres and Harvey Howard heading for The Willows.

For the present, Bell must make do with what he has, which to most clubs, would look rather a lot. For the tradi-

his progress in recovering from a particularly badly broken leg has not been quite rapid enough. He could be in contention by New Year. In the meantime, another New Zealander, Brendon Tuuta, could return after a sevpromoted to fill the void.

case bodich (9%).

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